Congress to block war reparations for MILF

STORY ON PAGE A2

Roco commends teacher for honesty

By Donna Cueto

LAST week, several days before classes had even started, a public school teacher gave the most important lesson of her life.

Making a withdrawal from an automated teller machine, Marilyn Bien-Bongiad of Calabanga, Camarines

ROCO/A6

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Pakistan conducts third missile test** WORLD / A11
- **Manufacturing output down 1.2%** BUSINESS / B1
- **Impeach rap vs Tancangco** NEWS / A2

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RAMOS: There must be "sweeteners" for investors.

FVR wants emergency powers for GMA, too

By Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendaño

GIVING President Macapagal-Arroyo "emergency" powers will allow her to address the problem of high electricity rates.

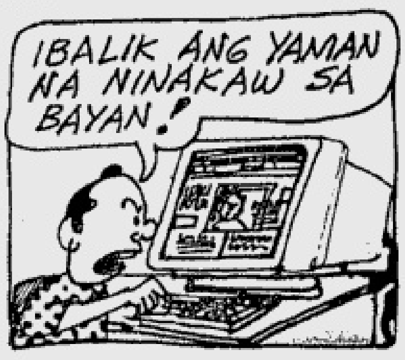
The advice came from former President Fidel Ramos, who is accused of using his emergency powers to enter into onerous contracts with independent power producers (IPP) that resulted in the high cost of electricity in the country.

At a news conference, Ramos called for changes in the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to empower Ms Macapagal to lower power rates and improve energy services.

"The Epira must be amended to give the President the authority to do what needs to be done to solve the current power crisis," Ramos said.

He said the Epira should be able to do for

FVR/A20


IBALIK ANG YAMAN NA NINAKAW SA BAYAN!

Log on, flame the Marcoses

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—If human rights victims can't get their money claims from the estate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, they may vent their spleens by logging on to the Marcoses' new website on the Internet.

By visiting www.marcospresidentialcenter.com, they can also learn more about the late strongman's life and

LOGON/A6

MANUEL M. LOPEZ
FELIPE B. ALFONSO
CAMILO D. QUIASON

AMID a public uproar over mounting electric bills, Meralco Chair Manuel M. Lopez (left), Vice Chair Felipe B. Alonso, and corporate secretary Camilo D. Quiason listen to the report of Meralco president Jesus Francisco during the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

Take over Meralco, 2 solons urge gov't

By Juliet L. Javellana

FED up with Manila Electric Co.'s unauthorized charges and high electricity rates, two members of the House of Representatives want the government to take over the Lopez-controlled utility firm.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico is set to file today a bill seeking to authorize the government to take over Meralco's operations "after payment of just compensation" to the Lopez family.

Asked to comment on Suplico's proposal, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said he could not because he had not been apprised of the bill.

Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House transportation and communications committee, initially broached the idea of a government takeover of Meralco at yesterday's hearing of the House energy committee.

"I raised the constitutional grounds that at any time, the public can take over public utilities if public interest requires," Paras said.

He later said he would move for the recall of the House approval last March of a bill extending the utility firm's franchise by 25 years, from 2003 to 2028.

Suplico and Paras voiced their proposals after Fe Barin, chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission, confirmed at the hearing that Meralco had collected from its customers P12.3 billion in purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges without authority from the ERC.

Barin said the ERC had already issued a "cease and desist order" enjoining Meralco to stop the unauthorized PPA collection effective June.

The proposal of Suplico is for the government to permanently take over the operations of all companies engaged in power generation and distribution

TAKE OVER/A21

NAT'L FLAG DAY

A Filipino soldier snaps a salute at the Rizal Park in Manila during a ceremony marking the 104th anniversary of the first time the Philippine flag with the sun and eight golden rays was raised.

SC remands Kuratong case to Quezon City court

By Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac and Rocky Nazareno

SEVEN years after 11 suspected Kuratong Baleleng gang members were killed in an alleged police "rubout," the Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision on the fate of the murder cases that the government filed against several police officers, including former police general Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Instead of stilling the controversy, however, the unanimous en banc ruling was certain to stoke it.

The high court ordered a Quezon City trial judge to determine a question of fact: Whether the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of a criminal case had actually elapsed when the Department of Justice revived the Kuratong cases in April 2001.

In an en banc resolution and with the justices voting 13-0, the Supreme Court also restrained the trial court from issuing any warrant of arrest against Lacson, the principal accused. Lacson was head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Habagat at the time of the killings on

SC/A20

Chronology of Kuratong whodunit

May 17, 1995—Police round up 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng group, allegedly the syndicate behind bank robberies in Metro Manila, during a raid at No. 12 Palm St., Superville Subdivision, Parañaque.

May 18, 1995—Police kill 11 Kuratong suspects during an early morning police operation on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. The operation, in what the lawmen later described as a shootout, was conducted by elements of the Anti-Bank Robbery and Intelligence Task Group (ABRITG) headed by Chief Supt. Jewel Canson of the Philippine National Police. The ABRITG was composed of police officers from the Traffic Management Command (TMC) led by Senior Supt. Francisco Zubia Jr.; the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission–Task Force Habagat (PACC-TFH) headed by Chief Supt. Panfilo M. Lacson; Central Police District Command (CPDC) led by Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon; and the Criminal Investigation Command headed

CHRONOLOGY/A20

Andaya asked to name colleagues with tainted pork

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE REVELATION of the chair of the House appropriations committee that legislators, officials and contractors pocketed P21 billion of the government's P104-billion procurement budget last year did not sit well with Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez demanded that Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. identify the legislators who committed corruption in the use of their pork barrel.

The P104-billion procurement budget includes the pork barrel of members of Congress, according to Andaya.

Gonzalez said Andaya should specify how much of the pork barrel was lost to graft and how much was lost in the procurement of goods and services by government agencies.

"It is unfair to lump all supposed graft in government offices, from the procurement of goods and services to the infrastructure programs funded from the countrywide development funds of legislators," Gonzalez said in a statement.

"This is important because the news item speaks about reforms on pork, which will mislead the whole world if we think that all kinds of corruption came about only because of pork," Gonzalez said.

Pork barrel is money taken from the national government to finance projects identified by senators and congressmen. A congressman representing a district gets at least P100 million in pork every year while a senator is entitled to P200 million.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier said that up to 60 percent of the pork for a road project was lost to graft.

Gonzalez said there were pre-

ANDAYA/A21

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKO.. HAHARANGIN!

Pinoy gets life for Kuwait slay

KUWAIT CITY—A Kuwaiti court Tuesday sentenced a Filipino man to life imprisonment for murdering a Canadian national last October, an AFP correspondent reported.

A judge handed down a life sentence to Teddy Tomaro for killing Luc Ethier, but cleared the Canadian's Filipino wife Mary-Jane Bitos of murder charges, while sentencing her to three years in prison for giving false testimony.

The judge acquitted two of four other Filipinos charged in the case, but handed down a two-year prison sentence to Norasa Talib Esick for adultery and a three-month jail sentence to Lourdes Viray for not reporting the crime. ***AFP***

Congress to block MILF reparations

By Cynthia D. Balana

CONGRESS will block the payment of any reparations to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as contained in the interim agreement signed by the government and the Muslim secessionist group after recent back-channel negotiations.

This was stressed by Sen. Blas Ople at yesterday's Senate hearing investigating the agreement signed by Presidential Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Hadji al Morad in behalf of the government and the MILF, respectively.

Ople said many senators present at the hearing conducted by the committee on peace, unification and reconciliation were not happy with the presentation made by the government panel headed by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita.

During the hearing, Ermita admitted there was a provision in the agreement on the payment of reparations.

But he denied there was a provision to return Camp Abubakar and other captured camps to the MILF, an issue that has raised the hackles of government and military officials as well as the public's.

Ople told Ermita the senators would oppose the payment of reparations, even if no amount was mentioned in the agreement.

"We will disapprove any budget that will mention reparations for the MILF," the senator said.

"The mere fact that the word reparations was used was very wrong. This connotes the government's military campaign against the MILF or the recovery of the camps was morally wrong. We reject that," Ople said.

He said Ermita was amenable to the senators' suggestion that the MILF's approval be obtained to remove the provision, the agreement being a bilateral one.

The senator said he wanted to make sure all the objectionable items in the interim agreement—which will become the basis for formal talks between the government and the MILF—are deleted from the final peace agreement.

The MILF, however, warned of possible repercussions if the government turned its back on its commitments in the interim accord.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said he believes the Macapagal administration would not abandon its commitments.

"If it does, its image will be tarnished before the international community," he said.

"The Macapagal government will be put into a difficult situation if it does not abide by the agreement it initiated with us," Jaafar told the INQUIRER.

He did not say if this meant the resurgence of the armed struggle on their part. "It is the government who will lose face, not us," he repeated.

Reacting to allegations the interim agreement violated the Constitution, Jaafar said it was the government's job to disprove this.

"The critics have simply found a political issue in the agreement so they are using this as ammunition against the President," Jaafar said.

He added the interim agreement was made with the mediation of Malaysia, making the pact an international accord. ***With Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

40 solons sign impeach complaint vs Tancangco

IT LOOKS like the impeachment complaint to be filed against controversial Commission on Elections commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco may end up going directly to the Senate.

This after 40 congressmen were reportedly to have endorsed the impeachment complaint against Tancangco which nongovernment organizations led by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) plans to file before the House by next week.

The number of signatories already represents more than half of the 77 congressmen or one-third of the House membership that is required to endorse an impeachment complaint so that it could be elevated immediately to the Senate. The Senate, in this case, will convene as an impeachment court as in the case of President Estrada in 2000.

"The signatures (of congressmen) are coming in fast," said Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is leading the signature drive in the House.

He said those who signed the complaint did so because they were tired of the squabbling in Comelec and saw the need to reform the poll body.

"Nobody wants this trouble in Comelec to continue," Puentevella said.

Puentevella had delivered a privilege speech last week calling for the immediate impeachment of Tancangco, whom he blamed for the failure of Comelec's modernization program as well as for coming up with questionable orders.

Earlier, Namfrel and several other groups announced plans to file an impeachment complaint against Tancangco whom they said they would charge with betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution for her many questionable decisions and orders she issued.

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Prosecutors waiting to 'feast' on Erap aide

By Volt Contreras

"UNBELIEVABLE . . . scripted . . . a sign of the panic in deposed President Joseph Estrada's camp."

These were some of the comments made by state prosecutors in Estrada's trial in reaction to statements made earlier by Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza, alleged employee of the former president and his crony, Jaime Dichaves.

Ortaliza was the alleged depositor of multimillion-peso checks into the separate bank accounts of Estrada and Dichaves, as well as of their joint account under the fictitious name Jose Velarde.

"We'll have a field day cross-examining her," said Dennis Villa-Ignacio, overall case manager for the prosecution team in the plunder and other cases against Estrada, when asked to comment yesterday on Ortaliza's disclosures.

"It's all scripted. We think they (the Estrada camp) are in a panic and were forced to present her (Ortaliza) to the media after our witnesses identified her as the representative of both Estrada and Jose Velarde in banking transactions," Villa-Ignacio said.

Ortaliza, a 49-year-old bookkeeper, was presented to the press on Monday by the Estrada camp. She maintained the "Jose Velarde" account at Equitable PCIBank belonged to Dichaves, not the ex-president.

She said that in July 1999, while she was a member of then President Estrada's Polk Street residential staff, Dichaves also hired her to run banking errands for him.

She said Estrada had asked Dichaves to give her the job—even though she was already working for Estrada.

When Dichaves learned that she did banking errands for Estrada, he asked her to do the same for him, she said.

Her work for Dichaves, Ortaliza said, included picking up the documents needed to open the "Jose Velarde" account at Equitable PCIBank and then making check deposits to the account.

Ortaliza, who surfaced one week after prosecution witnesses divulged her name in court, said she personally saw Dichaves sign the name "Jose Velarde" to signature cards used to open the account at Equitable's Binondo branch.

She did not deny court testimony that she had deposited million-peso checks to the account, particularly at Equitable's Greenhills, Ortigas branch.

Ortaliza said she received P20,000 a month from Dichaves for running the errands, apart from the P18,000 a month she got from the Office of the President.

Church, DoH: No to 'morning after' pill

By Armand Nocum

RAPE victims have no right to terminate pregnancies resulting from the crime.

Church and health officials stood this common ground amid calls to lift the ban on Postinor, a pill said to prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after sexual intercourse. Both the Catholic Church and the government prohibit abortion, which they believe the drug promotes.

Monsignor Hernando Coronel, secretary general and spokesperson for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said, "There is another person involved—the unborn child. It is the mother's moral obligation to bring the pregnancy to term. Then she has the option of either raising the child, or giving it up for adoption."

A coalition of 21 women's organizations has asked the Department of Health to reconsider its delisting of the drug (generic name: levonogestrel), also known as "the morning after" pill.

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This year's Jubilarians are from Mapua Tech Class of 1942 (Diamond), 1952 (Golden), 1977 (Silver), 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1982, 1987 and 1992. Individual Class Reunions of the Jubilee and non-Jubilee Classes will start at 3:00 P.M. at the Batanes 1 and 2 function rooms of Edsa Shangri-la.

The Grand Alumni Homecoming of Mapuans starts at 5:00 P.M. at Edsa Shangri-La's Isla Ballroom. Registration starts at 3:00 P.M. Valuable Major Raffle Prizes and "Showcases" will be given away during the Grand Raffle Draw. There will be Ballroom Dancing, KTV Singing, a Musical Extravaganza presentation and Buffet Dinner for all to enjoy.

Contact your classmates and fellow Mapuans now. Form your own class or group reunions. For more information, call telephones 812-6947, 819-7277, 893-4801 or 527-7916 loc. 610, send a fax message to 810-5374 or to telefax 527-1134.

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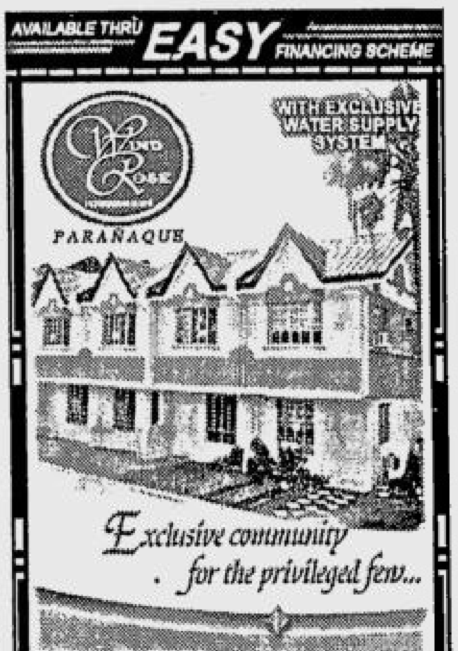
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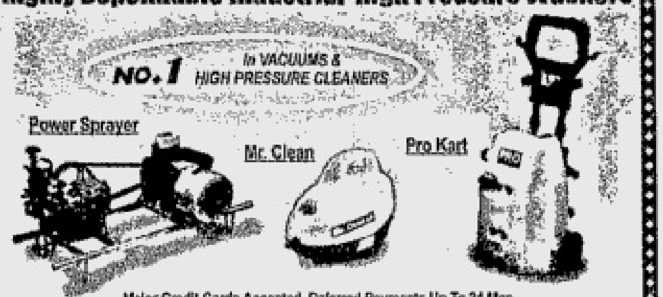

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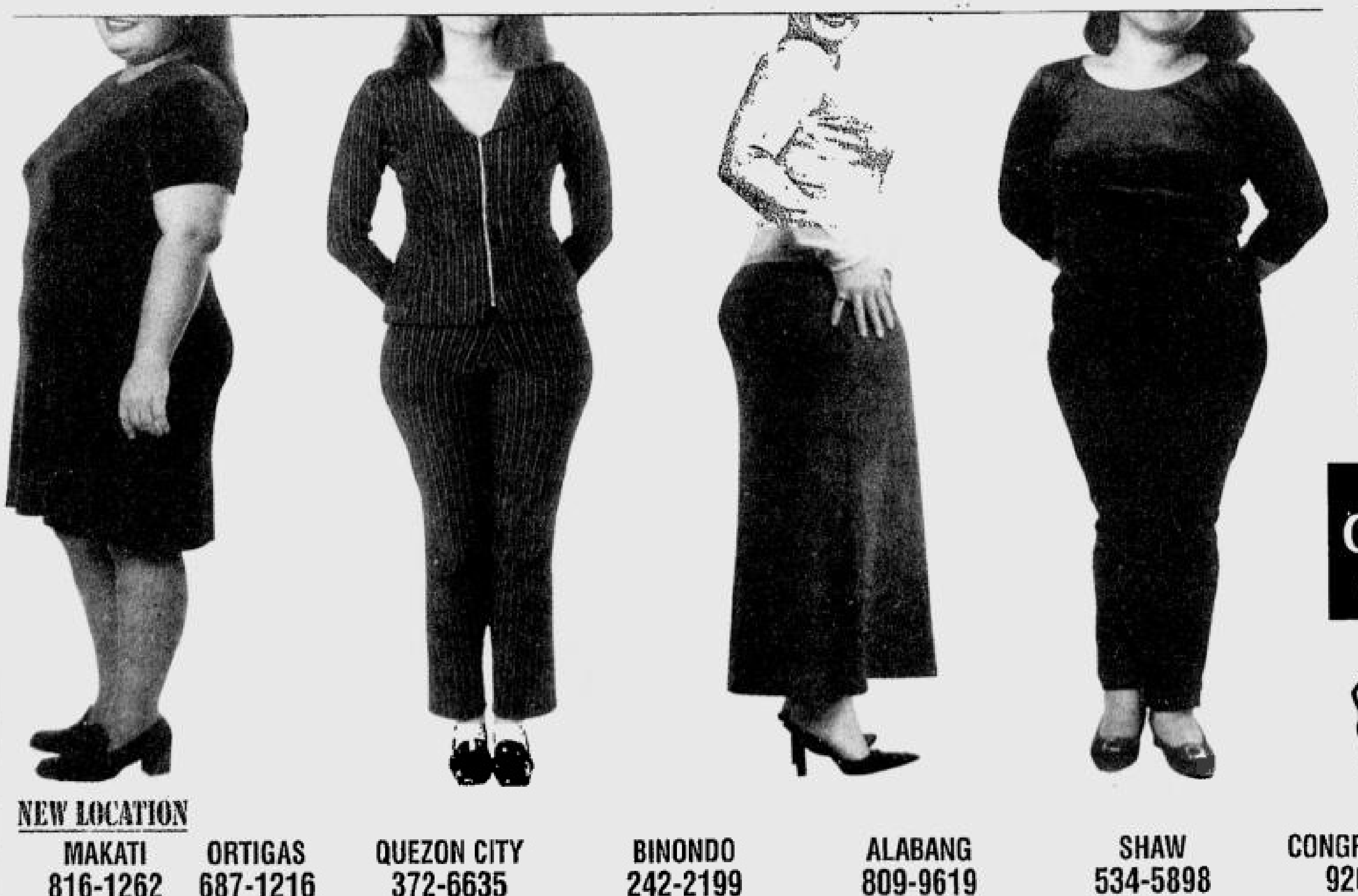

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BURNHAM RANSOM DIVERSION

US Embassy says it has faith in NBI

By Jerome Aning

THE UNITED States Embassy yesterday expressed "full confidence" that the National Bureau of Investigation was not involved in diverting alleged ransom payments for the release of Martin and Gracia Burnham from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The embassy has worked with the NBI for many years, and it has every confidence in the organization's professionalism," said Mike Andersen, embassy public affairs officer.

Asked if the US Federal Bureau of Investigation ever cooperated in any way with the NBI regarding ransom payments in the Burnham case, Andersen said, "it is US government policy to deny hostage takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes or other acts of concession," Andersen said.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco has vehemently denied accusations that bureau agents pocketed $150,000 from an alleged $1-million ransom for the freedom of the US missionaries.

In Zamboanga City, a Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson said a ranking government official based in Manila had asked his help to secure the release of the Burnham couple, without ransom.

Ustadz Shariff Mohsin Julabbi, MILF representative for Western Mindanao and Palawan, refused to identify the official, but said she could be acting on orders from Malacañang. He said the absence of encounters with the Abu Sayyaf in recent days was "an indication that the government might be arranging something."

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina denied knowledge of any government-initiated negotiation with the bandits.

He said the military operation was ongoing and no individual or group has been allowed to negotiate.

AFP chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu also told reporters in Zamboanga that any help leading to the Burnhams' release would be welcome, provided no money was involved.

"But I'd rather stick to our policy," Cimatu said. "Unconditional release of the hostages, and unconditional surrender of the hostage-takers." ***With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Southcom chief says US hostages may be separated

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The US Christian missionary couple held hostage by Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Basilan are both ill and may have been separated by their captors who are on the run from local troops backed by American forces, officials said Tuesday.

Martin Burnham is believed to have contracted malaria while his wife, Gracia, is reported to be suffering from a urinary tract infection, said military Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, citing information from villagers in the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Basilan island.

The couple yesterday began their second year in captivity in Basilan's jungles, along with Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap abducted separately by the rebels.

Carolina said the Abu Sayyaf had split into three smaller groups to elude pursuit and suggested that the hostages may have been divided as well.

"Right now, it is really hard to categorically say with 100 percent (certainty), that they (the Burnhams) are together," said Carolina. "I think the guy (has malaria), the lady has a urinary tract infection."

"The enemy is getting smarter. It could be to their advantage if they split the hostages," he said.

Carolina said President Macapagal had issued a directive to step up the operation to recover the Burnhams and Yap.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said the troops would continue with their assignment "to rescue the three hostages and destroy the terrorists."

"There will be no negotiations," he stressed amid persistent rumors of attempts to arrange ransom payments for the hostages.

Over 1,000 US troops have been training and assisting the local army in the south against the Abu Sayyaf, whose ranks the military said has fallen to only a core group of 60 fighters from a high of 600 last year due to government success on the battlefield.

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked by both Manila and Washington to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network. **AFP**

Gloria changes her mind again

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has changed her mind again about the frequency of Cabinet meetings.

At the start of her first monthly Cabinet meeting yesterday, she announced that they would be meeting twice a month from now on.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the President saw that matters to be discussed pile up when the Cabinet meets only once a month.

Due to limited time, Ms Maca-pagal deferred some items in yesterday's agenda till the next Cabinet meeting.

The President last month declared that she would only meet her Cabinet once a month, instead of every week as she had done for the past year.

She said she wanted to free her Cabinet members from time spent preparing for the weekly sessions.

Afable said they only discussed two items on the agenda yesterday—El Niño and electricity cost.

The other items deferred were the water and transportation rate hikes, anti-money laundering law, the school opening next month and the regular update on the State of the Nation Address targets.

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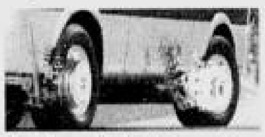

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CONFIRMATION IN LIMBO

Opposition vs Alvarez mounts

By Rocky Nazareno

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez's fate will finally be known on Monday after the Commission on Appointment's committee on the environment and natural resources agreed to vote on his confirmation then.

"We will vote on Monday because Rep. Vicente Sandoval still wants to grill more witnesses," according to Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

In a highly charged hearing, the CA committee heard the opposition of Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay to Alvarez's appointment.

Pichay took Alvarez to task for entering into Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifma) with companies with questionable ownership.

Pichay said Alvarez had signed five Ifmas with a total of 127,468 hectares with companies in the Shannalyne group. The agreements brought to 188,802 the number of hectares of forestlands in Mindanao the group could exercise tenurial rights over.

Pichay questioned how the group could have been granted such a vast concession when the companies under its wing—Caraga Forest, Goldenbell, Tansland and Tecland—had paid-up capitals of only P68,000 each.

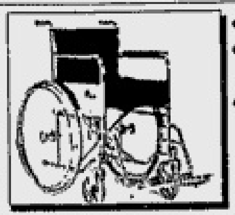
The Shannalyne group itself was only valued at P400,000, he said.

Pichay pointed out that this was in clear violation of an administrative order that required Goldenbell to have a paid-up capital of P1.76 million; Tecland, P.653 million; Caraga Forest, P1.9 million, and Tansland, P1.76 million.

"(The administrative order) clearly states that Ifma applicants should show proof of financial capability. What kind of proof did these Shannalyne companies show to the DENR and Secretary Alvarez?" Pichay asked.

He likewise, charged that 70 percent of the capital of the four companies was put up by foreigners, in violation of the Constitution.

He said this violated the constitutional provision that limits to Filipino citizens, corporations or associations the "development or use of forestland or forest resources" and whose capital is at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos.



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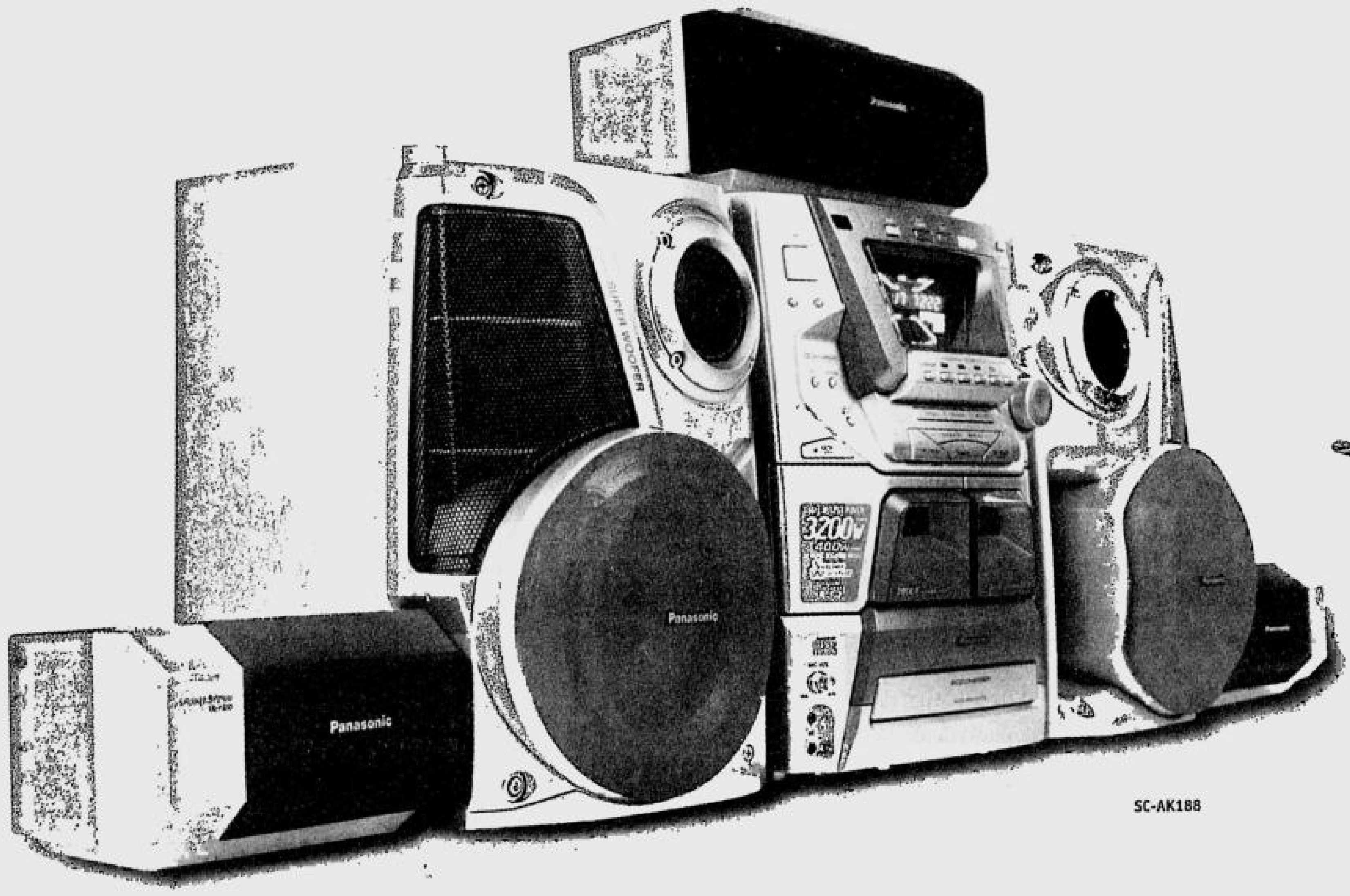

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Roco commends teacher for honesty

ROCO

From page A1

Sur, found that more than P6 million had been erroneously credited to her payroll account. She decided to report the matter personally to Education Secretary Raul Roco.

It was on May 23 that the Harubay Elementary School teacher discovered the "over deposit of more than P6 million" in her Philippine Veterans Bank account, Roco recounted in a memorandum.

The next day, Friday, she traveled to Manila to see Roco. She finally got to see the DepEd chief on Monday, May 27. She brought with her a letter and the transaction receipts, which she refused to show anyone except Roco.

"I am writing to formally inform your office of the mistake, and to request that the said amount be recovered from my account as soon as possible," she had written.

"I have no right to this amount and I do not want to be accountable for it. I trust that this letter will merit your attention and prompt action. Thank you."

Roco's staffers said Bongiad was "very upset" about the whole thing, and wanted to speak to the secretary himself. She refused to tell the secretary's staff what the important matter was that she needed to bring to Roco's attention.

Balance inquiry

In her letter, Bongiad narrated the events. "On 22 May 2002, expecting to have already received my salary for the month of May in the amount of P6,600 more or less, I made a balance inquiry on my said account and was issued a transaction receipt indicating an available balance of P6,602,650.43," she wrote.

"I did not notice then even after withdrawing the amount of P5,000 that the remaining amount was still in millions of pesos as I immediately folded the receipt after the transaction.

"It was on the following day, 23 May 2002, when I again withdrew the amount of P1,500, that I noticed the available balance in the amount of P6,596,150.43. I made a balance inquiry to ascertain the amount and the receipt issued confirmed it," she added.

"Instead of being tempted to take advantage of this error, Mrs. Bongiad decided to immediately take steps for its correction," Roco wrote in his memorandum titled "Commendation for an honest teacher."

"We commend strongly Mrs. Bongiad for her exemplary honesty and high sense of urgency on taking positive action on the matter. She is a prime example of the nobility and dignity of the country's Public School Teacher," Roco said.

"We invite everyone in the Department of Education to join us in congratulating Mrs. Bongiad. Let us remember her example!" he added.

Log on, flame the Marcoses

From page A1

achievements from the time he assumed the presidency in 1965 until his ouster in the 1986 People Power Revolution. He died in Hawaii in 1989.

Marcos loyalists, who are also behind the Marcos Foundation, put up the website, according to the late President's son, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

In a press briefing last week, Marcos said it was the idea of his sister, Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos, to come up with a website containing "good and bad" information regarding their father's presidency.

The content on the website was culled by Imee Marcos from her father's interviews, speeches and photographs.

"If you see the website, you'll know that the Marcoses are behind it. We will include even the not-so wonderful things said about our father. The objective is to let the people decide," Governor Marcos said.

Lito Gorospe, spokesperson for the Marcoses, brushed aside concerns that the website would only draw hoots and catcalls from anti-Marcos quarters.

"Anything the Marcoses do at this point is perceived to be political, but not necessarily so," Gorospe said.

"It is time that some basic facts and truths (about Marcos) were posted on the Internet for the information of Filipinos and the world. They (Marcoses) have been victims of a vilification campaign since 1986 and it hasn't stopped," he added.

The website features a menu through which visitors can log on their comments and suggestions. As part of the site's interactive service, visitors are polled on whether the government should allow Marcos to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The dictator's remains have been frozen in a refrigerated crypt at the family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte, since 1993.

The Marcoses have been pressing the past three administrations to give the late President a hero's burial. In 1998, President Joseph Estrada allowed Marcos to be buried in Fort Bonifacio but later changed his mind following a firestorm of protest.

The site opens to a superimposed image of Marcos with the Philippine flag fluttering on the side. It features a timeline of key events of the Marcos presidency from 1965 to 1986.

The timeline abruptly ends during the 1986 Edsa Revolution when the Marcoses were driven from Malacañang and fled to Hawaii to escape the throng of civilians that breached the Palace gates.

The site carried excerpts from two INQUIRER articles concerning developments on the Marcos frozen accounts and various cases that were dropped in favor of the Marcoses.

The site will later include an online library of digital materials from video, audio, photos and printed materials documenting the life, work and family of the late President.

It encourages students, researchers, scholars and the general public to use the materials for research and education.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Action to revive judgment—Sec. 6, Rule 39 of the Rules of Court states that an action to revive judgment only requires proof of a final judgment which has not prescribed and has remained unexecuted after the lapse of five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years from its finality. Nowhere does the rule require proof that the judgment is still enforceable by and against the original parties who have die. While the action is still subject to defenses and counterclaims which arose after the judgement became effective, proof of the death of some of the parties is not required because the judgment can still be enforced by the executor, administrator or successor-in-interest of the judgment creditor against the judgment debtor. Petitioners further alleges the respondents are not the owners of the subject premises, hence the action must fail. An action to revive judgment is not meant to retry the case all over again. Its cause of action is the judgment itself and not the merits of the original action. The non-ownership by private respondents refer to the merits of the first civil case which has long been decided with finality and thus become conclusive between the parties. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Enriquez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 137391, December 14, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 29, 2002
8th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 P 1:18-25
Gospel: Mk 10:32-45

Jesus and his disciples were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead. The Twelve were anxious and those who followed were afraid. Once more Jesus took the Twelve aside to tell them what was to happen to him, "You see we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the foreigners who will make fun of him, spit on him, scourge him and finally kill him; but three days later he will rise."

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Master, we want you to grant us what we are going to ask of you." And he said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They answered, "Grant us to sit one at your right and one at your left when you come in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized in the way I am baptized?" They answered, "We can." And Jesus told them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and you will be baptized in the way I am baptized. But to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to grant. It has been prepared for others."

On hearing this, the other ten were angry with James and John; Jesus then called them to him and said, "As you know, the so-called rulers of the nations act as tyrants and their great ones oppress them. But it shall not be so among you; whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you shall make himself slave of all. Think of the Son of Man who has not come to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

Once more, when Jesus is announcing his passion and death in Jerusalem, his disciples think of their personal plans and ambitions. It seems unbelievable, John the beloved disciple, and his brother James, both very special disciples, initiated an ugly power play among the followers of Jesus. Mark tells us clearly that John and James are at the origin of the dispute, Mathew, however, attributes this human ambition to the mother of both. The other ten felt bad of course. Fighting for power makes us step on others' rights and forget their problems and needs. Prompted by James' and John's request, Jesus tries to convince his followers that success in his Kingdom does not consist in prestige and power, but in following the way of their leader, who came to serve and not to be served.

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Course Fee: Php 6,500.00/participant for PSTD members, Php 7,000.00/participant for non-members

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Offered in partnership with the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), this course discusses retailers' functions, as well as the variety of decisions they make to satisfy customer needs in today's rapidly changing and highly competitive environment. Participants will be given background information on understanding today's retail environment, including shifting customer needs, the emergence of new types of retailers that satisfy these needs, and the development of retail technologies to increase efficiency.

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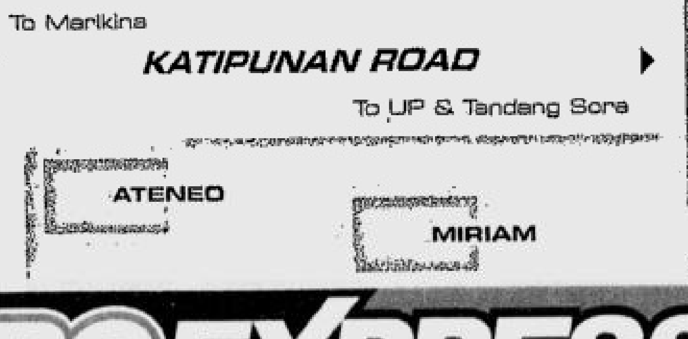

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2 RP ad agencies score big in Clio Awards

BBDO/Guerrero Ortega won three Clio Awards recently in Miami, Florida, for it's blockbuster commercial for Visa Asia Pacific "Dining Out" featuring Zhang Ziyi.

The awards—two Silver and one Bronze—were given for sound design, original soundtrack and editing. The commercial was also shortlisted in the main category.

It is believed that this is the first time the Philippines has won a Clio award in television.

The other Philippine winner is Ogilvy One, which got a silver for innovative media for the Economist.

Literary studies at Ateneo

APPLICATIONS to the MA, major in Literary and Cultural Studies program are now being accepted at the School of Humanities, English department, of the Ateneo de Manila University. This new program is designed for those who wish to pursue advanced studies in contemporary literary theory and cultural studies, as applied to both traditional forms of literature and popular texts.

The faculty roster includes scholars Luisa Torres-Reyes (PhD, UP), Guillermo Pesigan (PhD, UP), Maria Aguilar (PhD, Univ. of North London), M.R. Orendain (PhD, SLU), Enrique Francia (PhD Cand., Univ. of California at San Diego) and writers Danton Remoto (PhD Cand., UP) and DM Reyes (PhD Cand., UP).

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Galang, 80

FORMER public servant Jose P. Galang Sr., of Candaba and the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, died last week after a lingering illness, the family has announced.

Galang died in Los Angeles, California, where he had lived for the past 12 years. He was 80.

His body will be flown in by Philippine Airlines on Saturday. Accompanying him is his widow, Lucita Malonzo-Galang.

He will be brought to the Good Shepherd Memorial Park chapel in San Fernando City for the wake. Interment is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4.

Chua, 80

GENOVEVA "Bibay" Chua of Virac, Catanduanes, died on Saturday, May 25, after a massive stroke. She was 80.

Her remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Thursday, May 30, at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Marquez, 70

ROBERTO S. Marquez Sr. died on Monday, May 27 at the age of 70.

His body lies at the Rizal Funeral Homes Libertad St., Pasay City.

He will be cremated at Loyola Guadalupe on May 30.

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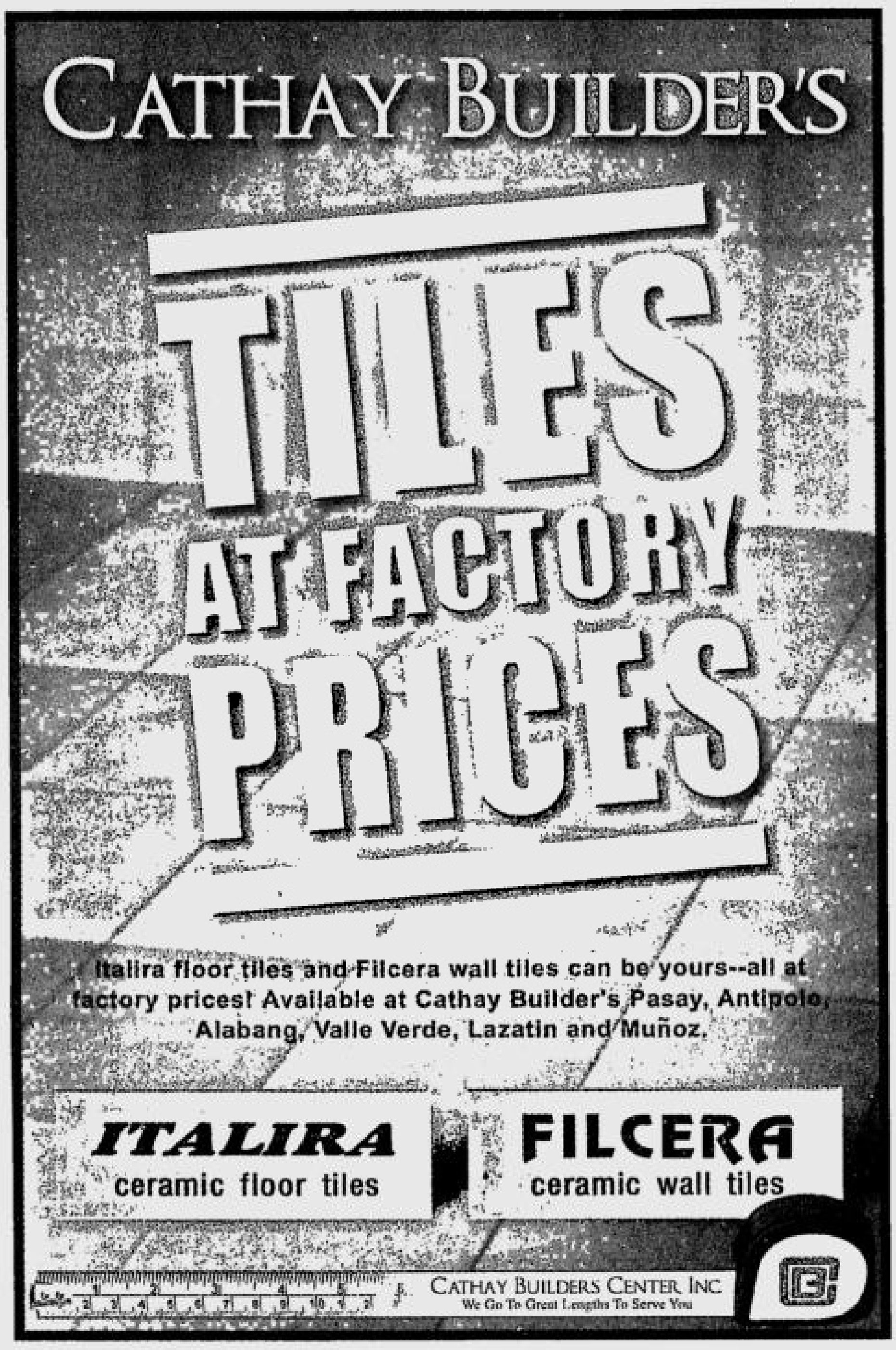

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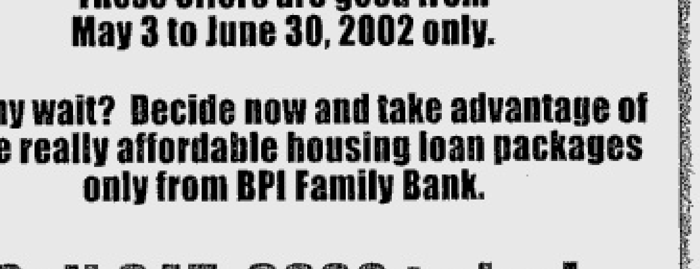

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Irrelevant

EDITORIAL

THE ABSURDLY low turnout for the special registration for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections last week may have delivered the *coup dê grace* to the troubled political exercise. Henceforth there should be no question as to the irrelevance of youth elections and youth governance.

We have said it before and we will say it again. The SK has outlived its usefulness. The only revision we can add to that statement is if the SK has ever been useful at all.

Once the showcase of the country's new political blood, the SK has become a display of the nation's inability to set its politics right. At the least, it's a showcase of our politics of indecision, as shown by the fact that incumbent SK officials have luxuriated in their positions for more than 10 years because of the constant extension of their terms. As it is, the nation for a decade could not decide when to hold the SK elections. Already the average age of SK members nationwide is 24, beyond the 21-year-old limit set by the Local Government Autonomy law that created the youth council. A legislative amendment to reformulate youth to cover geriatric considerations is simply impossible.

What had been envisioned by the authors of the law to infuse new blood into the body politic has become nothing but the same old blood albeit with a younger face. Old and new faces mix in the merry and sordid cauldron of Philippine politics. In many instances, this is true in a starkly literal sense: children of local executives have won SK posts on the strength of their political clans so that the SK has become another arena of nepotism and dynastic politics.

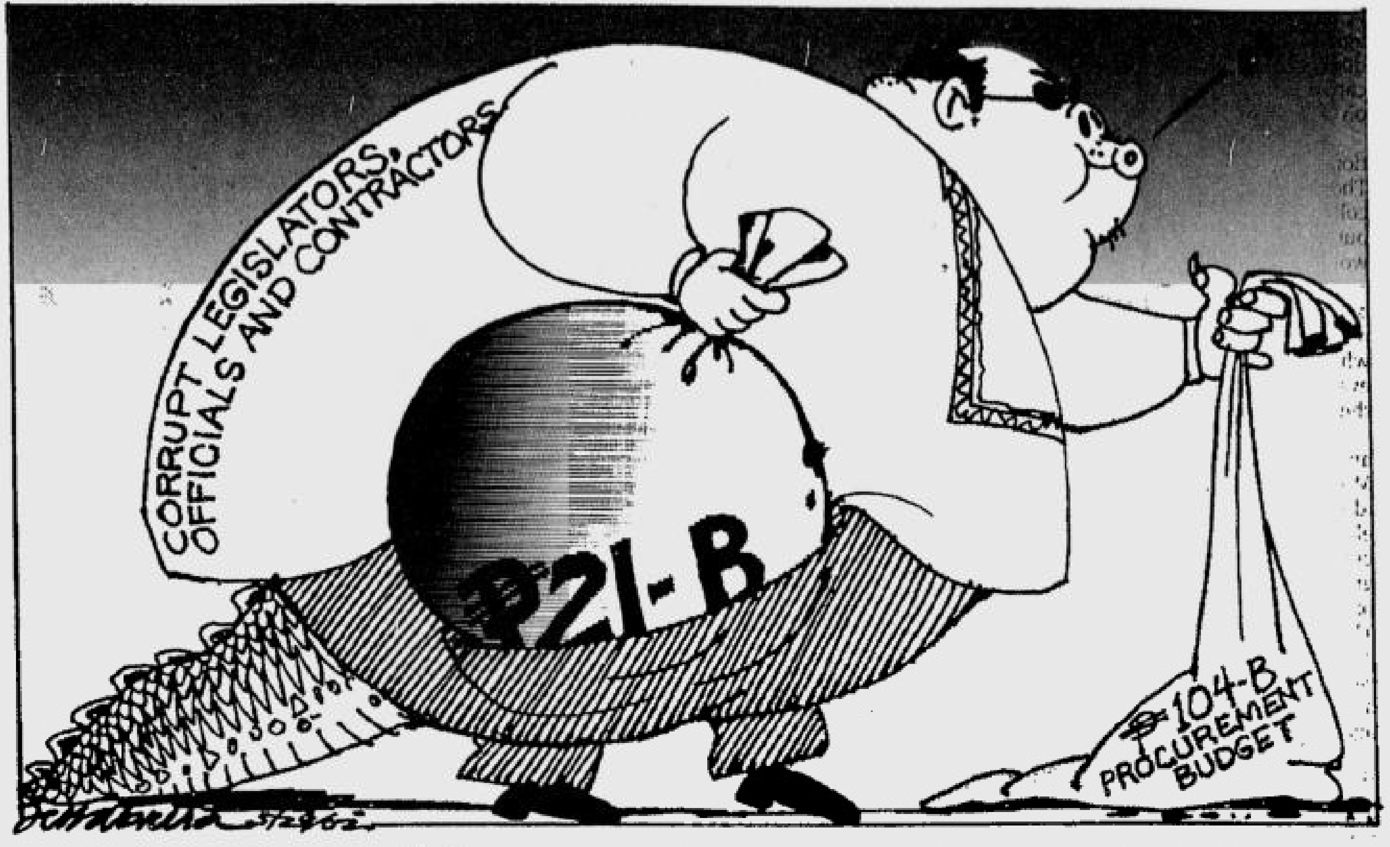
The SK was supposed to rear the young in the rudiments of political leadership while fulfilling the participatory dimension of a democracy. So far the score has been mixed, if not paltry. If the SK members have been educated for leadership, it is in the school of patronage politics, pork barrel and kickbacks. If the SK has given flavor to participatory democracy, it is the bitter flavor of exclusivism and entitlement. If the SK has been planned to be a form of checks and balance to the adult barangay, municipal, city and provincial councils, the sordid dynamics of Philippine politics, its predisposition toward dynastic conservation and horse-trading, may have transformed the SK to another instrument of cooptation and accommodation.

Even emerging young leaders have written finis to the SK as a hopeful sign for rejuvenating Philippine politics. Many are disillusioned by the corruption in government and the heavy influence traditional politicians exert on even the most innocent of youth officials. In some instances, SK officials have acquired the bad habits of the old. They have even fought ugly battles over pork barrel, become cozy with contractors and dispense largesse based on the size of the commissions they get.

Perhaps this is as good a time as any to rethink public policy toward the youth and how to best initiate them to the body politic. To be sure, the showcases of adult politics—the executive and the legislature on both national and local levels—have not exactly been models of perfection for the young. That may be enough warning at this point: why initiate the young at a very early age in the public sector where their idealism and inexperience will only make them easy prey to the depredations of old politics?

There are other means of fostering political participation among the youth that will not pander to the nepotism, patronage and dynastic proclivities of Philippine politics and governance. Some youth leaders have in fact called for wise public assistance to community-based organizations like the youth groups in the schools and churches.

The government should decide now. It could of course postpone once more the elections and allow the "extendees" to remain. Or push through with the elections and witness the fresh faces of our old politics assume their seats to infect further the body politic. The prospect will be interesting. There will no longer be any distinction between old and new politics. Our politics will then be one of boring uniformity and irredeemable hopelessness.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The case of the two Alvarezes in the Cabinet

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez again goes before the Commission on Appointments today. So the release of a letter of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the Department of Transportation and Communications cannot come at a worse time.

It seems that the ADB, way back in 1977, approved a $93-million loan, good for 25 years, to the DOTC for the improvement of six Mindanao airports: Pagadian, Butuan, Cotabato, Sanga-Sanga and Puerto Princesa. The European Investment Bank was supposed to provide co-financing in the amount of $29 million. The remainder of the total cost of $167 million was to be shouldered by the Philippine government. The project has already cost the government $1.5 million in commitment charges. But until today, no improvement has been completed in any of the six airports. The ADB has deplored the long delay in the implementation of the project.

In a letter to DOTC Assistant Secretary Alan A. Tan, dated April 19, 2002, Patrick Gerard, director of the Infrastructure Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB, complained that a review of the project showed that "progress is very slow…and far behind completion targets."

The ADB letter continued:

"Delay in the project implementation has already cost the government more than $1.5 million (P75 million) in commitment charges and continue to be accounted for about $600,000 per year. In view of the unsatisfactory progress, the insufficient time remaining to complete the required civil works, and the commitment charges incurred by the borrower (i.e. the Philippine government), we suggest that the DOTC request the ADB to cancel the uncommitted balance of the loan, as agreed during the loan review mission in June 2001."

Alvarez has had more than one year to comply with the loan requirements. Why did he not do so? As a result, the Philippines would be losing a vital project after paying more than P75 million in commitment charges. The improvement of the airports is necessary to support the government's peace efforts in Mindanao and to promote economic growth, tourism and travel throughout the region.

In fairness to Alvarez, however, maybe the reason for the delay is the lack of counterpart funds. This has happened many times to projects funded by foreign loans. With so many loans for projects requiring counterpart funds, the government cannot raise enough cash to go around. A big part of the funds goes to the pork barrel of legislators. Budget Secretary Emilia Bondocin is like the harried housewife juggling an insufficient family income to pay for household expenses.

* * *

As of this writing, the other Alvarez, Environment Secretary Heherson, may have already been bypassed again, rejected or, (surprise, surprise) confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. The Jesuit Father Provincial Romeo J. Intengan has called for the confirmation of Alvarez, calling it "a basic moral issue." He had faxed and e-mailed his long treatise to many people.

When I came home Monday afternoon, the floor under the fax machine was littered with paper and the roll of fax paper inside the machine was used up. In cases like this, I usually just crumple the faxed messages and throw them into the trash can without reading them, just to teach whoever sent them not to waste my fax paper. In the case of the appeal of the head of the Society of Jesus, however, I made a quick perusal and then read it in its entirety.

Father Intengan made sense. But since Belinda Olivares-Cunanan on the opposite page already wrote about it in her column the other day, I need not delve into it anymore. Instead I will air my two cents' worth of opinion on why Alvarez is like passing through the wringer in his confirmation hearings before the commission.

It seems that a gang of congressmen has ganged up on him, attending every commission hearing, and opposing his confirmation. Ironic, since Alvarez himself is a former congressman. Congress is an old boys' club and members usually protect their own. So why are they doing this to Alvarez?

Two reasons:

First is that Alvarez filed administrative charges against a subordinate, former Environment Management Bureau Director Peter Abaya, whom he supposedly caught abusing his official position by allegedly increasing the importation of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) that are cancer-causing and harmful to the environment. But it so happens that Abaya is the son of a congressman from Southern Tagalog. So the father rallied his colleagues from his region to oppose the confirmation of Alvarez.

This is not hard to do because (and here we come to the second reason) Alvarez has a personality problem. Colleagues call him "aloof, arrogant and *mayabang*." He is not the friendly type. As they say, he lacks PR (public relations). Which is strange, because all politicians are supposed to have plenty of PR, and Alvarez is a traditional politician through and through.

Maybe he is all that—and many people will swear that Alvarez is not the popular type—but does that affect his fitness for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources position? The DENR is one of the most corrupt departments in the government. Even now, a number of top-ranking DENR officials are conspiring to have at least 150 hectares of forest land in Baras, Rizal—reforested with Benguet pines by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation—to be divided and awarded to them through dummies. A good environment secretary must wage war against these corrupt elements. He is not there to win a popularity contest. He should be there to clean the DENR and clear all state land of land-grabbers, squatters and opportunists, as well as protect the environment.

If Alvarez can do all that, then he deserves to be confirmed. But if he only wants to be a popular environment secretary, then he should be rejected.

Ironic

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS fascinated by the discussion on "Talk of the Town" last Sunday. The question was, "Why are women attracted to priests?", and it was ably answered by "Rosette," Fr. Alberto Salonga and Ed de la Torre.

I wondered however why their answers did not include the most obvious one, which is that priests are the biggest single class of bachelors in this country. They may not be completely eligible bachelors, but the eligible is always arguable. A woman told me this, not entirely jokingly. Most guys who are reasonably presentable, well educated and talented, she said, are "taken." Which, she added, stood to reason. If you are presentable, well educated and talented, man or woman, you are not going to stay unspoken for for very long. This being a country that proscribes sex before marriage, "spoken for" normally means married.

Of course if marriage does not deter you from having relationships, she said, that is no problem. But if this country proscribes sex before marriage, it proscribes even more sex outside of marriage. A proscription that is especially daunting for women as it carries with it no end of sanctions. We no longer stone adulterous women, she said, but that is so only physically. We still stone them psychologically. Better priests. There may be a proscription against priests having relationships with women, but it doesn't carry the same degree of opprobrium as having a relationship with a married man.

If indeed it does at all, there being a tribe—and an increasing one—of priests who have left the priesthood and married. The relationship has the added virtue of not being doomed from the start.

But that aside, I buy the arguments advanced by the writers above, with minor caveats or qualifications. Doubtless the "forbidden fruit" has much to do with it, though as I said, it is a "forbidden fruit" that carries fewer sanctions than the even more forbidden fruit of a liaison with a married man. Or probably more accurately, the concept is less a "forbidden fruit" than an "impossible love." I suspect the allure of it has to do with the romance associated with the latter.

The idea of an "impossible love" has a long and robust tradition, dating back to the days of the knights. That was what a quest was for: a knight going off on a noble errand for a lady who inspires him but whom he can never have. The impediment need not necessarily be the fact that the lady is married, like Guinevere, or spoken for, like the daughters of kings, who are pledged in marriage to cement in more ways than one political alliances. It may simply be the fact that the knight, like Galahad, has dedicated himself to lofty and otherworldly ends. Spanish culture is steeped in that, the same culture its conquistadors bequeathed to these islands. If I understand right, that is the well from which the *kundiman* draws. Or indeed from which a lot of Filipino popular songs draw, with its theme of unrequited love based on lofty reasons. All the protagonists, man and woman, can do is pine for each other.

It's not just a Western concept. Only recently, we saw that in Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." That was what Michelle Yeow's and Chow Yun Fat's characters were. They were people in love who could not consummate their love out of some chivalric code, or way of life. Nothing physical stood in their way really since they were both unattached. But for all that, they might as well have been "spoken for," given their dedication to *wudan* perfection. Of course, it also raises some questions about what "consummate" is. The romance may be all that matters to some people. That idea should particularly appeal to women rather than to men who have been known, not without basis, to have only one thing in their minds.

But all this is a little too rarified. "Rosette" brings us back to the ground when she says that what attracted her to a priest was the fact that he knew how to listen. It is a quality, she rightly says, most men do not have, being a little too wrapped up in themselves. Of course, his ability to listen disappeared as soon as she got pregnant, to be replaced by utter aloofness, or coldness, as Rosette herself describes it. But that is another story. Suffice it to say that she herself advises men to discover the virtue of knowing how to listen, they would be astounded by the results.

Well, I myself know a lot of priests who like to talk more than listen. Priests are not just trained to listen, to be able to provide effective counseling, they are also trained to talk, to be able to deliver effective sermons, and unfortunately some learn the second far better than the first. I certainly know some priests who love the sound of their voices and hold court at every gathering, regaling the world with one story after another, often long after the world has ceased to be interested. But that too is another story.

As a general principle, I would agree that priests as a whole are better listeners than most other people. It goes with the territory, with hearing confession and listening to the problems of the faithful. I would go farther and say that priests as a whole are more in touch with their feminine side than most other people. Except for artists, and many priests are artists. I do know as well a lot of priests who are gentle and sensitive. Which stands to reason: You don't have the seeds of that to begin with, you won't make awesome self-sacrifices for a noble undertaking. Take it from Rosette, there is no truth to the rumor paraded by action movies that most women melt like butter at the sight of muscle-bound, sword-wielding, Conans. They prefer to collar the quiet guy with the Roman collar.

It's one of life's small ironies.

Can the AFP crush the MILF?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AMID the debate over the two "interim" agreements signed by the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on May 6 and 7, 2002, the troubling question emerges: If the agreements were scuttled, and fighting resumed, does the Armed Forces of the Philippines have the capability to inflict a decisive and crushing defeat on the MILF?

A classified paper, circulated inside the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, says no. The document, which was made available to this columnist, raises the question: If a conflict breaks out between the government and the MILF, what would be the objective this time?

During the campaign to retake Camp Abubakar and 44 other MILF camps in 2000, the paper says, "the objective was the camps. This time, what will be the objective? This question is relevant due to the grumbling from the military over the two agreements."

The paper also asks whether the military has an alternative military solution to deal with the MILF. "For a military campaign to succeed it must identify a center of gravity whose capture or elimination will result in the collapse of the enemy," the paper says. "What is the MILF center of gravity that will define the objectives of the campaign and make it worthwhile in the first place? The 2000 campaign proved that it was not the camps. In fact the loss of the camps did not diminish the capability of the MILF because they managed to regroup and...establish new camps again."

The paper asks whether the AFP possesses the skill and competence to execute an all-out assault on the MILF that will result, this time, not in gaining new territory but in severe losses to the MILF in terms of personnel and materiel, without causing exhaustion and depletion in the military's ranks. "If Basilan (where the military has been engaged in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf) is any indication of the performance and capabilities of the AFP, then it is safe to assume that the military will find itself overextended and exhausted after a few months of intensive operations."

Although the paper concedes that the campaign's main accomplishment was the capture of the MILF camps, it points out that "policy restrictions, serious lapses on the operational and tactical level and limitations in materiel allowed the MILF army to escape any battle of annihilation." The paper calls attention to lessons learned from the Abubakar campaign.

"Estimates of MILF losses during the half-year campaign were put at approximately 5 percent of the entire force," the paper says. "Clearly not enough to even disrupt severely the organization. The MILF leadership, following the campaign, announced a shift toward guerrilla tactics but the difficulty the AFP experienced in pursuit operations...allowed them to immediately regroup and in some cases reestablish camps in certain part of Central Mindanao." The MILF avoided frontal clashes with the AFP.

The paper says that prior to the campaign, four units were deployed in Mindanao: the 1st Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 6th Infantry Division and the 3rd Marine Brigade. These forces were reinforced by elements of the 1st Marine Brigade and several other infantry divisions, nearly most of the Philippine Air Force fighters, helicopters and transport aircraft, not to mention 25,000 civilian auxiliaries.

The MILF force was estimated at 15,700 hunkered down either in their camps or scattered throughout Central Mindanao. "The weakness of the MILF was that it chose...to split its forces over large swaths of territory not for military reasons but for political reasons," the paper says. Only 11,700 rebels were properly armed.

"The MILF was able to escape destruction not because of their skills but in spite of it," the paper says. "The AFP strategy was not to box in the MILF but was primarily directed at clearing them out of their...camps. It was not an objective to eliminate them as a fighting force."

Could the AFP have destroyed the MILF? "With the forces at its disposal, it may have but the cost would have been prohibitive," the paper says. "With severe shortage in artillery and aircraft plus limited manpower resources, a campaign that sought to wipe out the MILF would have exerted a dramatic strain and perhaps exhausted the AFP."

"That the AFP incurred casualties (300 government troops were reported to have died and between 500 and 1,000 were wounded) despite an operation with a very conservative objective and with a force larger and superior in all respects to the enemy is a sobering reminder to those who may advocate renewed operations," the paper says.

The paper notes that "even that campaign had its downside since despite the loss of all the MILF camps, the continued existence of the MILF made it necessary to garrison the newly cleared territory and this necessitated stripping...units from central and northern Philippines to the detriment of the campaign against the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippine-New People's Army)."

"Two years after the Abubakar campaign, the situation in Mindanao has not changed considerably with the MILF still maintaining control over certain areas and large deployments of AFP units on the island," the paper says.

Freedom is also an incentive

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S a clarification of that column item on a "questionable DepEd policy." What the elementary school principal was complaining about was not the Department of Education policy, but rather a Department of Budget and Management circular regarding the Management Operating and Other Expenditures (MOOE) allotment. Unlike for public high schools, the MOOE for elementary schools is not appropriated for every school but, as I said in the column, is left to the discretion of every division head.

In turn, the schools division office is hamstrung from allocating an MOOE budget for every school without the necessary guidelines from the DBM. The school principal did say that the Bicol Federated Public School Association had already requested the assistance of Education Secretary Raul Roco in negotiating during the national budget deliberations for the allocation of MOOE to every school in a division.

In a brief phone conversation, Roco said he in fact supports the principals' stand, maintaining that "giving power to the principals" is a basic DepEd policy. "They should be given a free hand to manage their own budgets and respond to the needs of their schools," said the secretary.

* * *

MSGR. Nico Bautista called to react to Sunday's column on the late movie director Lino Brocka and what he might have to say on the passage of a long-awaited bill on incentives for the film industry that was emasculated with the dropping of a provision on exemption from censorship of films rated of high quality.

As Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, another multi-awarded director, pointed out, what filmmakers need are not just financial incentives, in the form of amusement tax rebates, but creative freedom as well. In the bill passed by the House of Representatives, creative freedom would have come in the form of exemption from censorship for films that receive a favorable rating from either a "film development council" or a "film development and incentives board," depending on what the law will finally create.

Representatives of the film industry clarify that even if a film receives an "A" or "B" rating, it would still have to pass through the MTRCB for classification. However, having passed through a ratings board that deemed it of sufficient quality, it ought not to be subject to an "X" rating, which in theory the MTRCB could very well stamp on it.

But to return to Father Nico. Brocka, he reminded me, "made most of his best films during martial law." Which I take to mean that, in Father Nico's view, Brocka did not need "creative freedom" to make films that challenge, disturb and provoke.

Is the monsignor saying, then, that martial law should be declared anew so that we could see a flowering of the kind of cinema that the "Golden Age" ushered in by Brocka, Bernal et al. made possible?

* * *

THAT Brocka made the movies he did, and that he was able to find producers who were willing to bankroll them despite the cloud of martial law, is a tribute not to martial law or censorship but to the unshakable spirit of Brocka and his supporters, partners and allies.

If Brocka were so happy with the kind of controls he had to overcome, why did he devote so much of his energies to battling censors and censorship? To his last day, he fought for the abolition of the MTRCB, and was unmoving in his conviction that "exemption from censorship" was a necessary component of any movie incentive law.

In a statement, the Directors Guild of the Philippines (DGPI) said the proposed bill was meant to provide "two kinds of incentives for works that would pass the standards of the (proposed) film development council." One was the financial reward of tax rebates "to embolden producers into making films outside of traditional commercial formulas," and protection from "arbitrary MTRCB censorship" "to stimulate writers and directors to make provocative films examining our human and social conditions."

Surely, filmmakers (as well as all artists and writers, including journalists) understand the need for an environment conducive to creativity, daring, honesty and boldness. Why, then, did two filmmakers of note lead the move to expunge the censorship exemption from the final version?

* * *

DIRECTORS Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya, former DGPI members now holding government film-related positions, reportedly met with a few senators during a pre-bicam committee meeting to communicate to them President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged message: that if the final version contained an exemption from censorship, she would veto the bill.

This suggestion of a presidential veto was "somewhat confirmed," the DGPI said, when Sen. Tito Sotto, who chairs the Senate committee on public information, "cited his 'marching orders' from the 'powers-that-be' three times" during the final bicam meeting. Thus, despite the fact that there were more representatives than senators in that meeting, what was agreed upon was essentially the Senate version without the censorship exemption.

This development raises several questions regarding the separation of powers among the three branches of government, the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and the bankruptcy of an industry "leadership" that would sacrifice artistic integrity and creative freedom for the brief rewards of material incentives. Let's see what kinds of movies emerge from a regime of stunted creativity and public cynicism. Let's see the film industry survive that.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Flag Day

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

DUE to the emphasis on the June 12 celebrations, most Filipinos do not know about Flag Day which was celebrated yesterday, May 28. From May 28 to June 12, private individuals are encouraged to display the Philippine flag outside their homes or offices from sunrise to sunset.

Like many Filipinos, I see the flag every day. It is so common that we often fail to notice it or give it the respect it deserves. One glaring example happens daily in many hotels and restaurants where the national anthem is played. A waiter will aim an electric fan at a flag hanging on a flagpole. During the anthem, the flag is poked, pushed and pulled in a desperate effort to make it fly. In places without an electric fan, someone will take the flag by the tip and raise it while the anthem is played. Sometimes the flag is coaxed into waving at the crowd.

Both instances may be routine, but they are acts punishable under the flag law which, again, many Filipinos do not know about. It is amazing how little we know about a national symbol as common and as powerful as our flag.

Flag Day was first instituted on Oct. 30, 1919 when Francis Burton Harrison allowed the free public display of the Philippine flag. From 1907 to 1919, any display of the Philippine flag or even the colors—red, white and blue—was considered treason and punishable by law.

The flag that we ignore today, the flag that many people want to disfigure with a ninth ray in the sun, or the addition of a crescent moon or *budong* cane, is the same one that reminded Filipinos living under American rule that, once upon a time, there was such a thing as a Philippine Revolution and a Filipino Republic.

It was President Diosdado Macapagal who moved Flag Day from Oct. 30 to May 28. The reason was historical: the Philippine flag was first used in the Battle of Alapan on May 28, 1898.

It must have been a relief for many revolutionists in May 1898 to know that Emilio Aguinaldo had returned to the Philippines from exile in Hong Kong. Before he landed in Cavite, some people thought Aguinaldo had sold out the revolution and was living it up in Hong Kong using funds from the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in late 1897. Aguinaldo's return on board an American ship was a signal that the struggle would resume, and that this time the Filipinos had outside help—or so they thought.

In the evening of May 27, 1898, Aguinaldo sent arms and ammunition to Alapan. These weapons were purchased in China by the American consul in Hong Kong using Biak-na-Bato funds. The weapons were transported on board the US gunboat Petrel and deposited in a dike in Cavite in May 1898—all of 1,999 rifles and 200,000 cartridges, according to Aguinaldo's memoirs. The next day, May 28, 1898, the first Filipino victory in the renewed fight against Spain was won in Alapan. Aguinaldo himself relates the following:

"On...the 28th of May, 1898...There occurred the first combat of the Filipino revolution of 1898, which we may call a continuation of the campaign of 1896 to 1897. The combat lasted from ten in the morning till three in the afternoon, and through lack of ammunition the Spaniards [270 Marines] surrendered with all their arms to the Filipino revolutionists who entered Cavite with the prisoners."

That victory was significant because it was the first time the Philippine flag, as designed by Aguinaldo and executed under the direction of Marcela Agoncillo in Hong Kong, was first seen and used. Aguinaldo wrote:

"I seized upon this glorious occasion to bring out and unfurl the national flag, which was saluted by an immense multitude with acclamations of delirious joy and great hurrahs for Philippine independence, and for the generosity of the United States, the act being witnessed by various officials and marines of the American squadron, who demonstrated clearly their sympathy with the cause of the Filipinos by taking part in their natural jubilation."

The victory at Alapan was followed by the taking of Binakayan and Bacoor. In both places, the flag flew again. According to Aguinaldo, it was "our only sign of our liberty and independence."

Then, of course, the flag was an important component of the declaration of independence in Kawit on June 12, 1898.

On Sept. 1, 1898, Aguinaldo ordered that the flag be displayed on all Filipino ships that made up the Philippine Navy. The fleet was rather modest with about eight Spanish steamers and five vessels whose names he recalled as Taaleño, Balayan, Taal, Bulusan and Purissima Concepcion. They had either been commandeered or turned over by their Batangueño owners to the revolutionary government. Aguinaldo wrote:

"Oh, how beautiful and gallant is our flag unfurled in the air from the masts of our ships upon the very waters of the bay of Manila, alternating with the ensigns of other great nations before whose ships ours came and went and bearing their recent sign of liberty and independence! How respected and admired as borne among the legitimate triumphant echoes of the proud Filipino army after it had received the surrender of the regular forces of the Spanish government."

Our flag is a form of historical short-hand. It reveals many things to those who care to know more about its history and significance.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Chatter of widows

HIGH BLOOD

Maria de la Concepcion

WE'D also like to know the concern of the sixtysomething and above what makes their blood pressure ris or makes them sit back, content tha all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I AM the latest recruit into an exclusive sorority of single again. We have been friends since the early days of ou marriage, when we were all working moms, with a string of children behind us.

Now, that is history, as we all go through another phase in our lives. A funny sensation of independence has engulfed us. We are all terribly free again to do what we wish, never mind the place or time. No more meals to cook on time, no more "fitting hours" to observe. We are bonding together to cover a very deep hurt and loneliness.

We rarely talk about "him." Nelly says with much wisdom: "Be very careful about indulging in self-pity for it leads to depression, and that would be the end of you!" We just have to move on and when in "darkness," the instructions from the veterans are: call us for comfort (anytime, because what are we all friends for?), see a funny movie (something like "Tea with Mussolini"), go to the beauty salon and buy lipstick! That is why we stick together, if our schedules permit.

Nilda is an old school chum. She isn't really a widow, but she likes to come with us whenever her job permits it. She calls herself a "pre-departure" widow, since she left her husband after they had lived together for more than 20 years. They got entangled in a love triangle, but unhappy endings were not for her. ("You can't afford those daily fights at our age," she says.) She left their house. Luckily, she still works, which is the happy part of her life.

The other girls are fun people, not the ballroom-dancing kind of fun, but just being happy-together fun. We do book reviews of things we have read or discuss the latest political issues. Lately we have acquired a new hobby: we all took up painting, and we buy endless oils, charcoals and canvasses. And we got ourselves the best teacher there is. She is our master and we are her slaves.

We go on countryside trips and view the regions to the point where we can see tomorrow. A trip to Ilocos took us 10 full days because we felt we should do it leisurely, like peeking into every town market "just to see what they have." What we found on that particular trip were mostly baskets, and we bought them until the van could take no more.

Do not invite us to a town fiesta for we will be there without fail.

Do we talk of getting married again?

Nina says she would, if he has a private jet so they could have lunch in Paris and supper in Belgium. She knows the places where they would eat in both countries, although she swears Belgian food is best (better than Parisian food), especially in that quiet little tavern at the back of the town square. The owner is Tunisian. She has very pleasant memories of that meal and she would like to experience it again.

But Nina forgets that her Mr. Right Rich probably has a string of extremely sexy 17-year-olds, with parallel thoughts in their minds. In other words, Nina daydreams too much, and dreams of the impossible. The truth is, she exaggerates her daydreams because she isn't getting hitched ever again.

I tell my friends with much emotion and some tears that I really don't think I could go back to wifehood. I couldn't go through the nightmare of seeing him die: all those days of injections and IV bottles, endless trips to the drugstore and those hospital bills! I cannot have two of the same nightmare in my lifetime.

"*Nagpaparamdam ba ang asawa mo?*" Never, says Cielito. I wish he would though, even in a dream!

"Before he died," Gloria recalls, "I told him that I would take care of him."

"No, we shall take care of each other," he answered back.

Long after he died, I talked to him in my heart and reminded him of his promise about "taking care of each other." I was in a very tight financial fix after the doctors' bills and all that. I told him to send me money, not for myself, but for others who needed help, and make that a sizable amount, please. I was testing him, but at that point, I needed a miracle badly. My faith was getting wobbly. I had no idea what I was talking about or how he was going to do it. I just flung my dare to the winds.

On the 40th day after his death, I found an e-mail on my breakfast plate. It was a letter from Switzerland, from a friend I met just a few months back. He was the chair of a foundation that was helping local street children. He said in his letter that he was sending me $5,000 and asked me to give it to my favorite charity.

Not even in my wildest imagination did I expect something like this. I concluded that this was indeed a miracle. He had answered my wish, as if to reassure me that he was still there by my side and it was proof that he would always be there for me in my times of need. I was convinced that he was not only proving his presence but also showing that he was taking care of me for he had always been the breadwinner.

Other members of our family have also felt his presence many times. Especially the grandchildren who call out to him loudly, like the granddaughter who told him: "Popsie, show my friends a big falling star since they have never seen one!" No sooner had she finished when the group of little girls saw this huge falling star falling almost right in front of their noses. My granddaughter told her friends, "Hey, you guys whose grandparents are dead, call them, and they will surely hear you." The falling star was their living proof.

One extremely hot, summer afternoon after a lunch that took a couple of hours, we made a count. Here we were, five widows with perhaps still some years ahead of us, Mona observed. But she quickly added, "*Gaano pa kaya ang tagal ng sakit* (How much longer will it hurt)?"

Carol answered also in Tagalog: "*Hanggang kamatayan.*"

We are beginning to sound like the titles of some telenovelas, we reminded each other. For the hurt gets deeper as the years pass. It is a different kind of hurt combining loneliness, longing and emptiness.

Maria de la Concepcion, 70, was widowed 10 months ago. She is an artist and a writer.

THEY SAID

Cleaning up the mess

"Woe to us priests, the sisters are braver than us in cleaning up the mess we have done."

—Fr. Robert Reyes on the convent where women impregnated by priests seek refuge

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A salute to priests

SADDENED and disgusted by the exposure of sex scandals by priests the world over, in the solitude of our monastic life, we beat our breast and utter, "Lord, have mercy on us!" Indignant at the way some people sensationalize sacerdotal failures, we were inspired to move out of monastic silence and voice out our firm support and lifelong commitment for the good of our priests.

We recognize the cowardice of priests who live "double lives," boldly continuing in the ministry while furtively living as husband and father. We uphold the noble spirit of priests who opted to leave the exalted status of the priesthood to stay with and support the woman and the child they love. The magnanimity of those among you, who choose to be faithful to the moral demands of the priesthood after having met and known the "woman of your heart" is truly worthy of praise and emulation. We understand priests who seek the comfort of friendship in a feminine compassionate heart. We admire priests who are able to integrate all sorts of human affection in their lives, to receive love freely and give love that liberates.

Priests, in your daily struggle to be conscientious celibates, faithful to God and His people, in a world where romantic love is everywhere sought after, where sex is the commonplace source of pleasure; ordinary men called by divine grace to walk the "less traveled road," always confronted by your ontological solitude, experiencing sin in your flesh, yet refusing to give in; and men of the cloth, we salute you!

We express our deep gratitude for all that you do, endure and confront to be our "bridge" to God.

LETTERS

We keep your pains and joys, fears and hopes in our hearts.

We remind you of what St. Therese said: "I have come to Carmel to save souls and to pray for priests."

—WITH 12 SIGNATORIES,
Contemplative Nuns of Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tambacan, Burgos, Pangasinan

What Makati gov't wants from other agencies

I WOULD like to clarify certain misconceptions arising from the story "PNP, NBI chided for bypassing Makati officials" in your Metro section last May 11, 2002.

I am sending a copy of our press release dated May 9, 2002 which reads in part: "The Makati city government today issued a strong warning to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), units of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other national law enforcement agencies on their failure to comply with a city regulation requiring these agencies to provide local authorities copies of their after-operations reports."

The press release explains the basis for the city council resolution, and why the mayor is asking for copies of after-operations reports from the NBI and the PNP.

The statement and the resolution were clear on one point: the agencies should provide the city government with copies of after-operations reports. The press release did not mention anything about the mayor asking for clearance or coordination from these agencies before they stage operations; the mayor asked for copies of reports after these operations, hence after-operations reports.

Also, the statement did not specify anti-drug trafficking operations.

The way the press release was rewritten, it appeared that the mayor issued the statement after an operation by the Southern Police District, which yielded 35 Ecstasy tablets, a bust that earned us the distinction of being the "Ecstasy Capital," according to some newspapers.

May I also add that the reactions elicited from some unidentified SPD operatives regarding the non-story were totally out of context, if not inappropriate.

—JOSELITO SALGADO,
officer in charge, Information and Community Relations Department, City of Makati

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I AGREE that the lead of my story should have read "...law enforcement operations, particularly anti-drug operations," or something to that effect. The omission was caused by the rush to beat the deadline. Still, the lead was clear enough in showing that the law enforcement agencies should not bypass local officials in conducting their operations. This was the essence of the press release of the Makati PIO.

I used that term "after-operations report," and it was clear in my story, as shown in the finished product.

Unfortunately, my story did not refer to Makati as the "Ecstasy capital" of the country. But it is common knowledge that distribution of the drug within the city is rampant.

The statement of my SPD source was indeed debatable. But I let it stand to provoke a policy discussion.

—ALCUIN PAPA

Science and religion go together

THIS is with reference to Dean Jorge Bocobo's column, titled "Moral values of science education," last May 13, 2002.

Bocobo took speculative potshots at the Opus Dei and the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) in connection with the science curriculum of the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum.

It is sad to see how one can attack an institution of the Church and a university, based on admitted speculations. With due respect to Bocobo, he goes from the realm of speculation to allegation of fact in one swipe. This is unfair. This is not journalism, and please don't give us the line that it is an opinion article.

Bocobo conjures the "plausible theory that Opus Dei ultra-rightists caused the cuts in science teaching in the Basic Education Curriculum." Afterwards he speaks of "the Opus Dei conception that modern science is a threat to religious belief or moral formation," as if it were fact.

Nothing is farther from the truth. "There is no excuse for those who could be scholars and are not," Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, wrote in point 332 of "The Way." Opus Dei people are known to strive for academic excellence in their respective fields of study.

We are not members of the Opus Dei, but we participate in some of its formation activities. We have always been taught there to take our studies seriously, as a way to serve God and others.

We think that labeling the Opus Dei as "ultra-rightist" should be a thing of the past, for people who cannot grasp the straightforward reality of the Opus Dei. Enough to be in contact with the members and their activities to understand the mission of the Opus Dei in the Church and in the world: to spread the call to holiness in daily life and work well done.

As graduating students of the UA&P, we are offended by the insinuation that our university downgrades science and mathematics education in favor of moral values formation. Where did Bocobo get this idea?

Moral formation is valued in the UA&P, as in other universities, but doing this at the expense of academics is unheard of. For the UA&P, science and religion, reason and faith, work and prayer, always go together. They are never in opposition since they deal with the same realities. This dictum is stated as a succinct clincher in our University Credo: to dedicate and commit ourselves to, above all, the arduous but most spiritually rewarding pursuit of wisdom, the synthesis of love of God and knowledge, faith and reason, culture and life. This philosophy is aptly showcased in our curricular and co-curricular activities.

The theory that "several bigwigs from the UA&P gained control of the curriculum development process" to influence the Department of Education to cut science teaching is incongruous.

We wish Bocobo will limit his opinions to the experiential, rather than the speculative.

—CHARISSE DC BASILIO,
CHELINA L. DELOS TRINOS,
University of Asia and the Pacific

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pakistan conducts third missile test

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan said on Tuesday it successfully test-fired a 180-km range missile, the third and last in a series carried out during a tense military crisis with India.

The test came as British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was in Islamabad to meet Pakistan's military President Pervez Musharraf as part of intense diplomatic efforts aimed at averting war between the nuclear-capable neighbors.

In a televised speech on Monday night, Musharraf said Pakistan would not start a war with India, but would respond "with full might" if attacked.

The Army says the tests, which began on Saturday, are routine and not linked to the confrontation with India.

Nevertheless, observers say they are clearly aimed at sending a message that Pakistan could meet any conventional Indian attack with massive retaliation, and showing it would have the capability to send nuclear warheads toward Indian cities.

The missile tests are also seen as sabre-rattling by Musharraf to satisfy domestic hawks who accuse him of caving in to Indian pressure by abandoning, or preparing to abandon, militants fighting Indian rule in mainly Muslim Kashmir.

"As part of a series of military tests currently underway, Pakistan today carried out a successful test fire of its short-range indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile Hatf-II (ABDALI)," the Pakistan military said in a statement.

"The system is capable of carrying warheads accurately up to a range of 180 km," it said. "The flight data confirmed its accuracy and all other design parameters which were successfully validated."

Pakistan says its ballistic missiles could carry nuclear warheads, and has not ruled out using its nuclear capability in response to a conventional attack.

"The successful test fire of ABDALI concludes for now the series of tests conducted over the last few days," the military statement said.

The two South Asian states have massed about a million men along their border since a December attack on India's parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based Kashmiri militants.

Tension soared again after an attack by suspected Islamic militants on an Indian Army base in disputed Kashmir on May 14, prompting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to tell his frontline troops to prepare for a "decisive fight." *Reuters*

PAKISTAN'S surface-to-surface missile Hatf II (ABDALI) takes off from an undisclosed place for a predestined target May 28. REUTERS

India: 'We are not on the brink'

NEW DELHI—India denied Tuesday that it was on the brink of war with fellow nuclear nation Pakistan, but said Islamabad had failed to meet its demands to stop militants sneaking into Kashmir.

"We are not on the brink," Defense Minister George Fernandes said. "The fact is that troops are on the border, but to say that they are on the brink of war would not be proper."

But he refuted claims by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf that Islamabad had stopped militants infiltrating into the disputed Kashmir region—one of New Delhi's key demands.

"What (Musharraf) has said about the present situation is totally wrong (regarding cross-border militancy)," Fernandes said.

"On the contrary, I have intelligence reports which say ISI (the Pakistani intelligence service) is planning more strikes in many parts of the country," Fernandes told Star television.

Musharraf said in an address to Pakistan late Monday that all infiltration across the Line of Control, the de facto border between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, had ended. *AFP*

Short-range nukes of little use to India, Pakistan, experts say

By Mark Trevelyan

LONDON—Pakistan's newly tested Ghaznavi missile could strike India within three to five minutes of launch, but Western defense experts doubt Islamabad would fit a nuclear warhead to such a short-range weapon.

Analysts say neither of the two South Asian rivals, confronting each other over the disputed territory of Kashmir, would be likely to resort to a "tactical" nuclear strike close to its own borders.

"They won't explode nuclear warheads close to their own country because the radioactive fallout would possibly come back on top of them," Duncan Lennox, editor of Jane's Strategic Weapon Systems, said.

Short-range nuclear weapons in any case have "no real military utility" because the idea of a limited nuclear exchange is a nonsense. Even a "little nuke" would trigger massive retaliation by the other side, said Andrew Brookes of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Pakistan said at the weekend it had successfully fired a 290-km Hatf-3 (Ghaznavi) missile and a medium-range surface-to-surface Ghauri.

Analysts agreed the Ghaznavi was most likely to carry a conventional high-explosive warhead. Lennox said it would need at least one more test before it could be considered operational.

The Ghauri, with its much greater range—1,500 km for the Ghauri 1 and 2,300 km for the Ghauri 2—is the likelier candidate to deliver a nuclear warhead and would take eight to 10 minutes to reach its target, he said.

The weekend tests heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, which conducted back-to-back nuclear tests in 1998 and have come to the brink of war, with a million troops now massed along their border.

But the experts said while each side possesses both nuclear bombs and a range of missiles, the challenge of achieving consistent, reliable launches is formidable.

The nuclear warhead must survive exit from and re-entry to the earth's atmosphere at massive speed, accompanied by extremes of temperature. "To make sure that works every time is a considerable feat of engineering," said Brookes.

Jane's, the British-based defense information group, estimates New Delhi has 100 to 150 nuclear warheads: up to 20 bombs that could be dropped by Jaguar or Mirage 2000 aircraft, and the remainder deliverable by Agni or Prithvi missiles. *Reuters*

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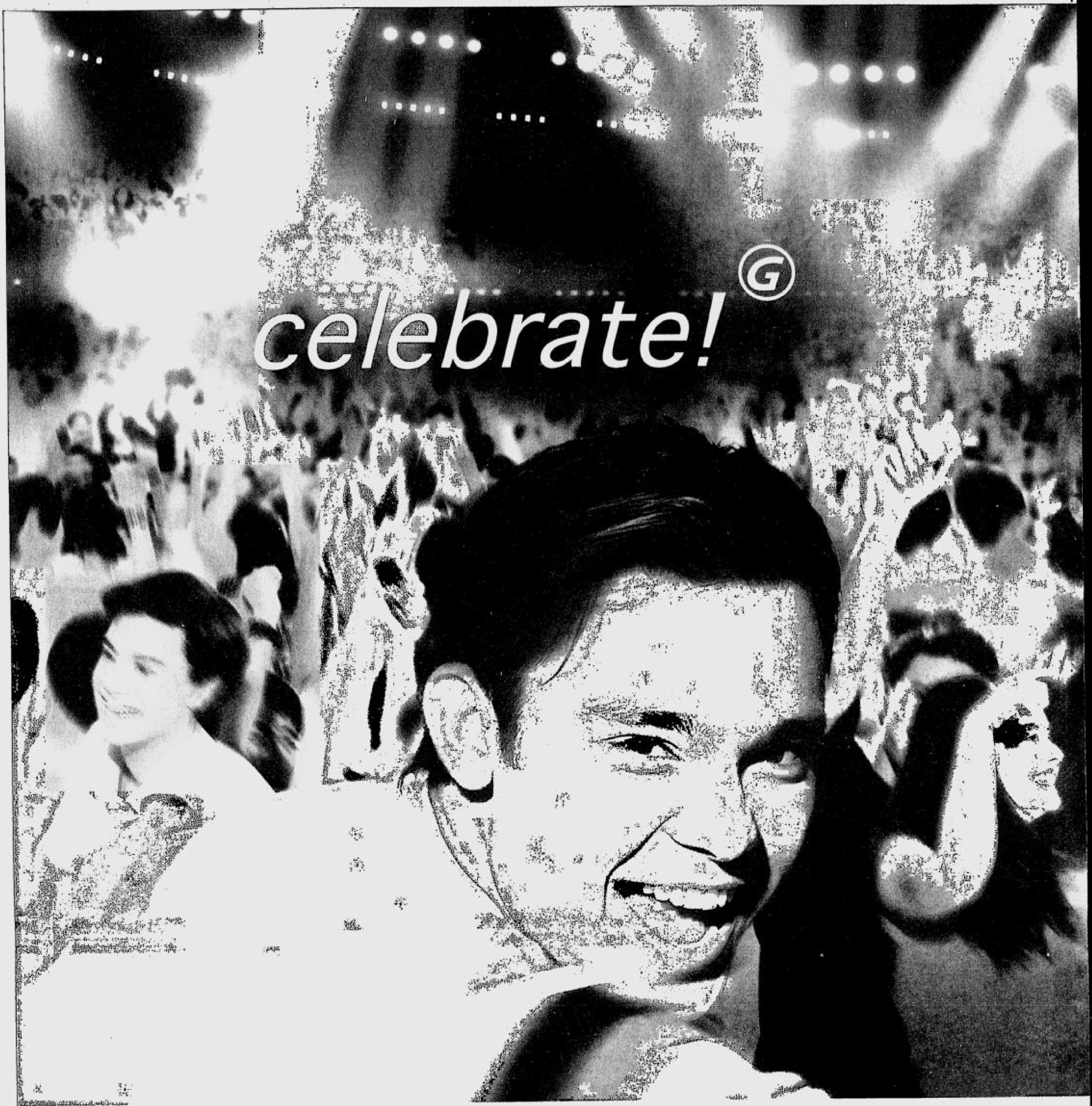

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Palestinian suicide bomber kills 2

PETAH TIKVA, Israel—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up and wrecked an outdoor café in a town near Tel Aviv, killing two people and wounding 44 in a hail of glass shards and metal, police and medical workers said.

The Monday night blast tore through the café and a nearby ice-cream parlor outside a shopping mall in Petah Tikva, about 10 km east of Tel Aviv.

In Beirut, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades group, an offshoot of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah political movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the fifth such bombing in Israel in little more than a week.

Israel again pinned the blame on Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which again denied responsibility and said such "terrorist" attacks undercut the Palestinians' 20-month uprising against occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The rising tension has clouded diplomatic efforts to revive peace talks and end bloodshed accompanying the revolt, in which at least 1,373 Palestinians and 482 Israelis have been killed.

"The Palestinian leadership, which together with the Palestinian people is under continued Israeli aggression, condemns the terrorist attack that targeted Israeli civilians in Petah Tikva," the Authority said in a statement issued in Gaza.

"It considers this attack harmful to our cause and struggle and to the image of the Palestinian people before international public opinion . . . It causes a weakening in international solidarity with our people . . ."

Palestinian nationalist and Islamic factions have spearheaded the uprising in which suicide bombings inside Israel now overshadow attacks on soldiers and Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

The mall bombing occurred as the Israeli Army stepped up raids on Palestinian towns across the West Bank targeting what it calls suicide bomber networks driving the revolt raging since peace talks stalled in 2000.

Early on Tuesday, Israeli troops raided the northern West Bank city of Jenin and clashes broke out with Palestinian gunmen, local witnesses said.

They said Israeli jeeps followed by tanks entered the city from various directions. Shooting and a number of explosions were heard.

At least two helicopter gunships roared overhead during the initial part of the operation, which began shortly after 2:45 a.m., witnesses said.

An Israeli Army spokesperson confirmed there was "military activity" taking place in Jenin but declined to comment further.

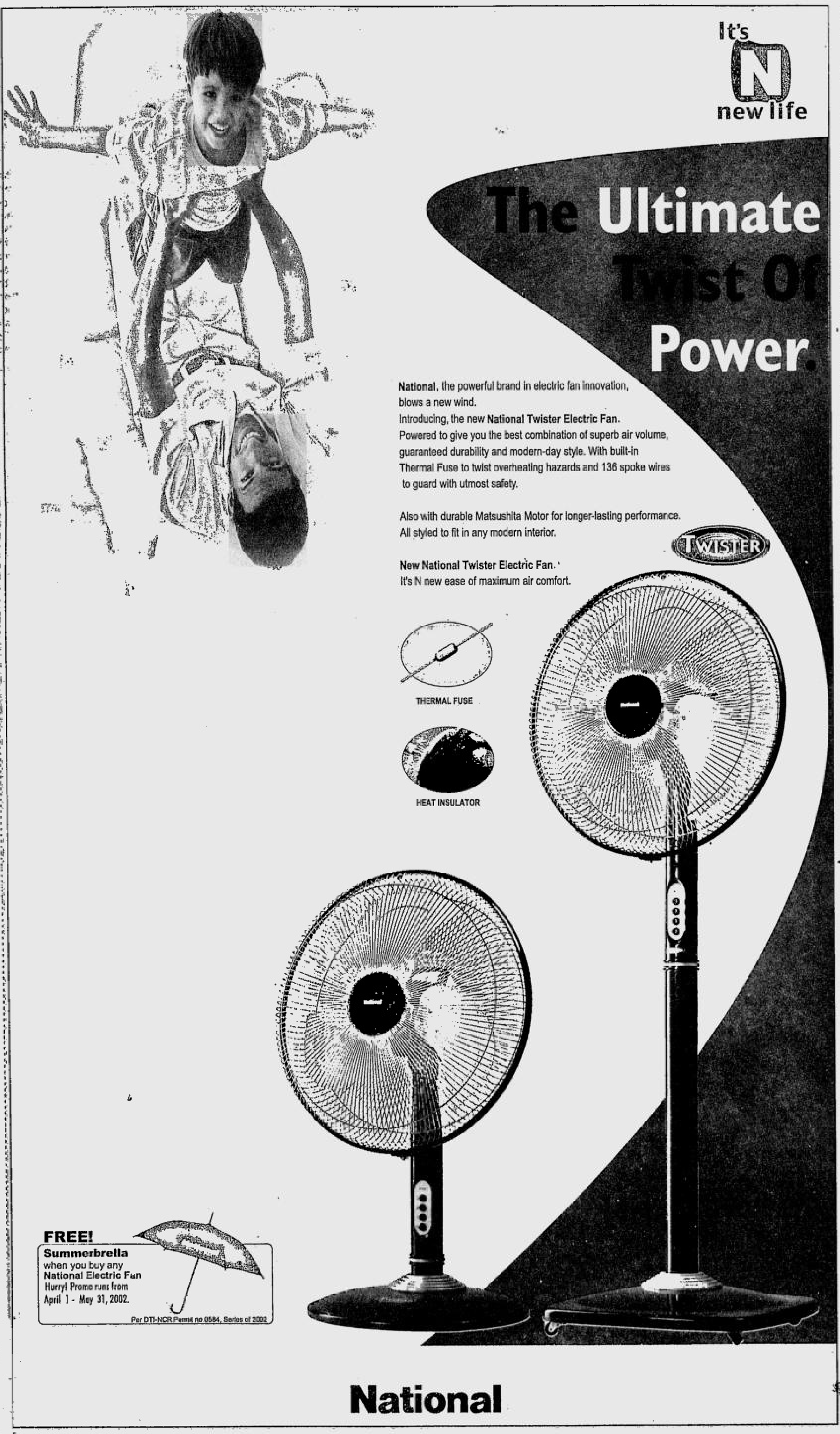
It was the second time the Israeli Army had swept back into Jenin since it occupied the Palestinian refugee camp there last month, triggering the worst fighting and highest casualties of Israel's recent West Bank offensive.

Palestinians have charged that Israel carried out massacres in Jenin refugee camp during last month's operation. Human rights groups reported they found no evidence of this but said Israeli troops may have committed "war crimes" in the camp.

The Army on Monday reoccupied and declared a curfew in the city of Qalqilya, only hours after pulling out of it and arresting five people, while tightening its encirclement of Tulkarm and beefing up forces along the "Green Line" boundary with Israel. *Reuters*

BACK TO LONDON REUTERS/MICHAEL CRABTREE

The 15th-century crown of Margaret of York—sister of King Edward IV of England and wife of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy—returns to the Tower of London, May 27, for the first time since 1468. The crown, one of only two English crowns from the medieval regalia to have survived being destroyed by Oliver Cromwell, is currently housed in Aachen Cathedral, Germany.



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National

Nepal state of emergency extended

KATMANDU—Nepal's King Gyanendra Monday extended by another three months a state of emergency imposed to tackle a Maoist insurgency, state-run radio said.

"His Majesty the King Monday evening extended the state emergency at the recommendation of the caretaker government," it said.

The government of caretaker prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba had recommended the extension of the emergency, imposed in November to combat an increasingly violent Maoist rebellion, because of the ongoing unrest in the country, it said.

The emergency was extended a day after it expired at midnight on Saturday.

It gives local authorities and security forces wide powers to detain and interrogate suspected Maoists and impose curfews, measures critics say are draconian and have not stopped the rebels.

The rebels have been fighting for a communist republic in Nepal since 1996 and the insurgency has so far claimed over 4,000 lives, with half the deaths in recent months.

The extension of the emergency came as Nepal's ruling party appeared split into rival camps after caretaker prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was expelled for his decision to dissolve parliament and call elections two years early.

He apparently asked the king last week to dissolve the 205-member lower house of parliament and call elections for Nov. 13 after his own party refused to back him for the extension of the emergency.

Deuba was subsequently banned from the Nepali Congress (NC) party for three years.

The NC party president Girija Prasad Koirala as well as opposition parties had been speaking out against the extension of the emergency saying it would endanger the democratic system of the country.

The opposition Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) claimed Monday's extension of the emergency was unconstitutional because it had been done while parliament was disbanded.

The emergency rule was introduced on Nov. 26 last year after the Maoists broke a four-month ceasefire and pulled out of peace talks. *AFP*

Rescuers recover fourth body in barge accident

WEBBERS FALLS, Oklahoma—Authorities suspended recovery efforts Monday after finding a fourth body in the murky waters of the Arkansas river, a day after a freak barge accident that caused a major highway bridge to collapse.

Divers believe additional vehicles and bodies remain buried under the rubble, but thunderstorms and poor visibility hampered recovery efforts, Lt. Chris West of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said.

He said rescuers would map the river bottom with sonar while waiting for the weather to clear.

"They feel like they need additional time to try to reconsider different methods to continue those recovery efforts," he said.

The barge rammed a support structure of the bridge carrying Interstate 40 over the river in eastern Oklahoma early Sunday, knocking a 180-meter section into the water along with several cars and trucks.

Four people were rescued and taken to a nearby hospital, but perhaps a dozen others died, authorities said. The vehicles are submerged in about 3.5 meters of murky, fast-moving water.

One of those rescued was truck driver Rodney Tidwell, who lives in the nearby state of Mississippi. "I'm going home. I've got three small kids and I'm going to be with them awhile," he said.

The fourth body was that of a woman, found in a pickup truck shortly after recovery efforts resumed early Monday, West said.

A temporary morgue has been set up at a local high school, authorities said.

Three bodies were pulled from the river late Sunday from three separate vehicles before recovery efforts were suspended. *AFP*

China crash seen similar to TWA's, Swissair's

PENGHU, Taiwan—US investigators on Tuesday joined the probe of a China Airlines jet that broke up over the Taiwan Strait and killed 225 passengers and crew—an accident much like a TWA crash in 1996 and a Swissair accident in 1998, an official said.

The members of the American team, who assisted in the TWA and Swissair probes, were chosen because "the cases were very similar," said David Lee, the lead investigator for Taiwan's Aviation Safety Council.

Investigators have declined to speculate why the China Airlines jet broke into four pieces 9,000 meters over the strait about 20 minutes after leaving Taipei for Hong Kong on Saturday. Theories include a fuel tank explosion or structural problems with the 22-year-old aircraft.

The pilots reported no problems before the Boeing 747-200 went down near the Penghu islands, off Taiwan's western coast and about 300 km from Taipei.

Search teams have not recovered major chunks of wreckage or the plane's "black boxes," as the voice and flight data recorders are called.

Beacon signals from the black boxes have yet to be detected, and the devices might have been damaged, said Kay Yong, managing director of Aviation Safety Council.

"The black box could have a power outage if it (the crash) was a very, very sudden situation," Kay told reporters in Penghu. "Then the black box may not provide much information."

Miao Chun-yi, a professor of aeronautics at National Chengkung University, said metal fatigue—hard to detect during inspections—could have caused the plane to split apart in the air.

Metal fatigue can develop because planes constantly expand and contract during takeoffs and landings, Miao said. Taiwan's humid weather could cause corrosion and worsen the problem, he said.

Transportation Minister Lin Lingshan told reporters that weather and conditions at sea Tuesday were good for the search. However, an air force helicopter pilot returning to port said nothing was floating on the waters in the morning.

"At this point, the bodies have either sunk beneath the sea or have been eaten by sharks," said the pilot, who requested anonymity.

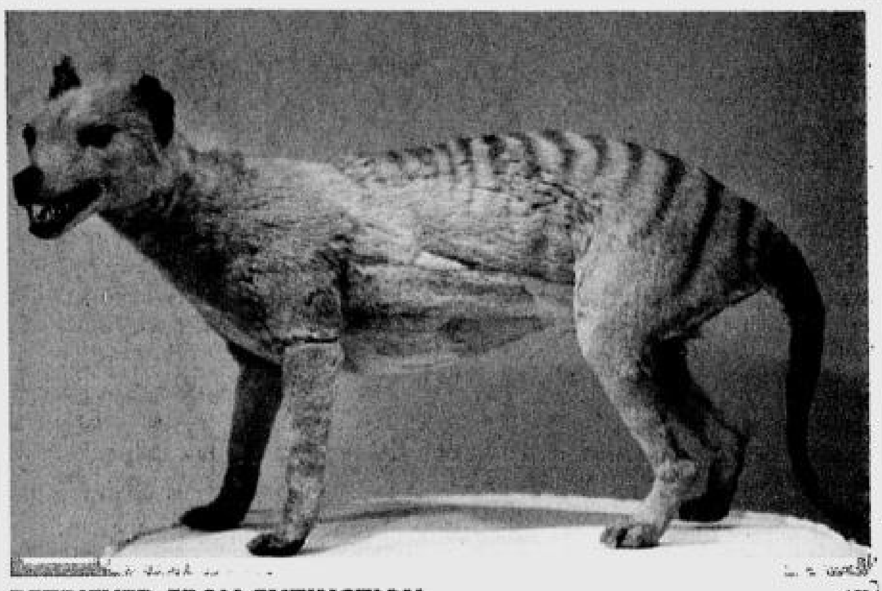
About 80 bodies were found, most of them passengers who had been sitting in the plane's tail end, officials said. Forty naval vessels—including four minesweepers—and about 100 fishing boats were involved in the search.

The U.S. group included four investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and two from the Federal Aviation Administration. U.S. investigators traditionally assist in crash probes that involve American-made planes.

The U.S. investigators declined to discuss the crash in detail after arriving Tuesday in Penghu.

"We're just here to help, and we haven't been briefed yet," said Greg Phillips, the lead NTSB investigator.

Taiwanese investigator Lee said, without elaborating, that the China Airlines crash was similar to the 1996 crash of a New York-Paris TWA flight that broke up shortly after takeoff near the coast of Long Island, New York, killing 230 people. The probable cause of that Boeing 747-100's crash was a fuel tank explosion, investigators said. *AP*



AFP

RETRIEVED FROM EXTINCTION

A Tasmanian tiger (Thylacine), which was declared extinct in 1936, is displayed at the Australian Museum in Sydney May 25. Professor Mike Archer has led a team of scientists who successfully replicated DNA from a 130-year-old female thylacine pup specimen preserved in ethanol and now plans to recreate the extinct species within a decade.

2 Venezuela coup leaders seek asylum

CARACAS—Two leaders of last month's coup sought political asylum Monday as top military leaders planned a protest against President Hugo Chavez, who has not consolidated power six weeks after his two-day ouster.

Chavez said Monday that he would grant Pedro Carmona free passage to Colombia, a day after authorities there offered political asylum to the leader of the April 12 coup.

The announcement came as another coup leader, retired rear admiral Carlos Molina Tamayo entered the residence of the Salvadoran commercial attaché and requested political asylum in that country, his lawyer said Monday.

"The Salvadoran government is studying the case closely under international asylum law," the Salvadoran foreign ministry said through its Caracas Embassy.

Meanwhile, uniformed members of the military announced plans for a march to protest government investigations of officers involved in the coup, a retired officer's group announced Monday.

Chavez's calls for a national dialogue in the wake of the coup have largely fallen on deaf ears, as opponents find myriad ways to challenge his leadership, using the legislature as a forum to blame Chavez for the killing of 17 people during the April 11 riots that helped bring him down.

Chavez continued his conciliatory tone by granting Carmona free passage to neighboring Colombia.

"We wish him well," Chavez said. Carmona escaped house arrest and slipped onto Colombian diplomatic grounds in Caracas on Thursday.

"We are obliged to grant him free passage. These are international legal standards that we conform to and he managed to enter the Colombian Embassy," giving Carmona the right to request asylum and giving Colombia the right to grant it.

In all, five military leaders and Carmona were under house arrest awaiting trial for rebellion. Rear Admiral Molina, who participated in the coup, also feared arrest.

"By all appearances, he was going to be deprived of his liberty," Molina's lawyer, Carlos Bastidas, said Monday.

Military leaders rejected military boards of inquiry into the participation of those in its ranks in the April 12 coup, said the association of retired military officers (FIM). *AFP*

Drive to abolish death penalty growing, says nun

TOKYO—The campaign to abolish the death penalty is gaining ground worldwide, including in the US and Japan, despite the belligerent tone adopted by some leaders after the Sept. 11 attacks, nun and author Sister Helen Prejean said here Tuesday.

"It is true the 11th of September attack has been a counterforce at some times because (US President George W.) Bush moved in the military paradigm, saying Bin Laden should be sentenced to the death penalty.

"But simultaneously there has been a great awakening of consciousness . . . there is a rapid escalation moving away from the death penalty," said Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking," an autobiographical account of her counseling work with death row inmates.

The book was made into a successful movie directed by Tim Robbins and starring Susan Sarandon as Prejean.

The abolitionist pointed out that there is already a "de facto" moratorium on carrying out the death sentence in 111 countries, or two thirds of the world.

To back her claim of progress in the United States, Prejean cited the May 9 adoption by the governor of Maryland of a moratorium on the death penalty pending the results of a study into racial discrimination in sentencing and similar moves in Illinois. *AFP*

Russia, Nato bury Cold War hatchet with security forum

ROME—Russia and Nato bury the Cold War hatchet on Tuesday when they set up a forum to discuss security issues, putting behind them years of bombs and bombast.

It's been a bumpy ride of sulks and tantrums, warnings of war and walkouts, fence-mending and now bridge-building.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of 19 Nato states will sign an accord creating a Russia-Nato Council that will allow Moscow to discuss as an equal security issues ranging from global terrorism to weapons of mass destruction.

The new body, designed to further integrate Russia into key Western institutions, brings the wheel almost full circle since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Soon after talking over at the Kremlin, the then Russian leader Boris Yeltsin sent a letter to Nato saying: "Today we are posing the question about Russia joining Nato."

The missive caused an attack of the vapors at Nato headquarters, until the Kremlin said it had all been a terrible misunderstanding—a typist had omitted the word "not."

The incident came to characterize the sometimes boisterous, sometimes brash relations between the two would-be allies.

But as Russia's initial pro-Western ardor cooled, Nato began to court Moscow's former allies in the now-defunct Warsaw Pact. The result was that Russia's historic fears of encirclement came back to haunt it with a vengeance.

Yeltsin warned of a new Iron Curtain dividing the continent, and said expansion of the Atlantic alliance eastward could ignite "the flame of war" across Europe, a rhetorical flourish which nevertheless left Nato chiefs looking for ways of calming an evidently angry bear.

The solution was the 1997 Nato-Russia Founding Act, which gave Moscow a voice, but not a veto, in Nato affairs and allowed Yeltsin to drop his public hostility to the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the alliance.

Yeltsin even managed to steal the show at the Paris conference called to seal the deal, grandly announcing that Russia would remove warheads from nuclear missiles aimed at Nato states. "You know as much as I do," a stunned US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger told reporters hungry for details.

One Kremlin damage limitation exercise later and it became clear the warheads would not be targeted at Nato, rather than removed. Back home, nationalists branded the deal an "act of unconditional surrender," while supporters said Yeltsin's gesture had handed Russia a "3-2 victory" away from home. *Reuters*

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House body OKs Angeles district bill

ANGELES CITY—The House committee on local government approved on Monday a bill seeking to declare this city a lone and separate congressional district of Pampanga.

Mark Sison, chief of staff of Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, said the committee approval of House Bill 4629 would pave the way for the creation of a new congressional district within the territorial boundaries of the province.

The bill, filed by Nepomuceno on April 10, is being supported by the provincial board, the city council, the municipal councils of Mabalacat and Magalang, and the Pampanga Mayors' League.

This city and the nearby towns of Mabalacat and Magalang comprise Pampanga's first district.

Nepomuceno said the measure would be advantageous both to the residents of this city and the two towns because they would have separate Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) allocations.

He said the PDAF projects include financial assistance, livelihood and employment, science and technology, and infrastructure.

Records from the National Statistics Office in 2000 showed that Angeles has a population of 263,971, while Mabalacat and Magalang have a combined population of 248,575.

Many politicians in the two towns have been planning to run for Congress once the measure becomes a law. Since the creation of the first district, only politicians from this city were able to win the congressional elections in the district. *Jun Malig*

DENR in Negros revamped

BACOLOD CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered a revamp of key officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Negros Occidental following complaints of rampant tree cutting in the province's forested areas.

The newly designated DENR officials were under strict orders to curb the reported cutting of trees in the province, said Environment Executive Regional Director Raoul Geollegue.

Among those affected by the revamp was Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Oscar Oliveros.

Under Special Order 2002-369 issued by Alvarez on Friday, Oliveros will be assigned at the DENR regional office based in Iloilo City starting yesterday.

Raul Lorilla, Bacolod Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) was named acting Penro, replacing Oliveros.

Cadiz City Cenro Severino Llamas was told to take over as Cenro in Bacolod. Andres Untal, Deputy Park Superintendent of the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park, was named acting Cenro in Cadiz.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon earlier complained about reports of timber poaching that appeared to be done with the knowledge of some DENR personnel in the province.

The latest were the timber-poaching activities at the Baslay Central Nursery Project in Barangay Talacdan, Cauayan town, about 119 km southwest of this city, where police discovered the cutting of 16,000 board feet of natural-grown tress on May 8.

Aside from the cutting of trees, the police discovered charcoal making inside the reforestation project area, using branches of already cut trees.

On May 6, troops of the 2nd Police Mobile Group led by Senior Insp. William Senoron seized 3,000 board feet of white *lauan* inside the Northern Negros Forest Reserve Area in Barangay Patag, Silay City, 14.4 kilometers north of Bacolod.

Geollegue had recommended the revamp to address the problem on unabated cutting of trees in the forested area.

"I cannot imagine that the cutting has gone unnoticed considering that it was done within our very own reforestation area and at that scale," he had earlier said.

Also affected by the revamp was Jess Vego, DENR regional chief for forest resource development, who was named Cenro in Kabankalan City.

He will take over the position of Rogelio Manuel, who will be assigned to the DENR regional office.

He said Lorilla and the Cenros were ordered to ensure that personnel with credibility, efficiency and a sense of mission were in key positions.

If nobody was qualified for key positions at their levels, he added, the Penro and Cenros could source personnel from the regional office.

"They had to complete revamps at their level this week," Geollegue said. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Church-owned newspaper in Davao City folds up

DAVAO CITY—The Davao Catholic Herald, published weekly by the Archdiocese of Davao, announced its closure due to financial difficulties.

The paper's edition on May 26 was its last issue, Fr. Rey Roque, its editor in chief, earlier said.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla said it was very unfortunate that the Catholic Herald, being the only surviving Catholic weekly paper in Asia, is closing down.

But Capalla said he was hopeful that it would be back in circulation when the financial problem is solved.

Although the Herald has prompt collections, Roque said it has an outstanding printing debt amounting to P347,000 with Holy Cross Press. The printing plant's board of directors has demanded that the amount be paid immediately.

The Herald started its publication as Taboan in the 1950s and changed its name to Catholic Herald in the 1960s.

With its closure, the archdiocese's Social Communications Office (SCO) might cancel the Davao Catholic Mass Media Awards (DCMMA), which is on its fourth year.

Roque, who is also the executive secretary of the SCO, said they saw no stability in the media awards.

Besides, the award-giving body also lacks the financial support to sustain it, he said. Some winners have even voiced displeasure at how little the cash prize was, he added. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Pagadian cop chief implicated in journalist's death sacked

PAGADIAN CITY—Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza has ordered the relief of city police chief Supt. Asuri Hawani, who was implicated in the killing of journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Senior Supt. Pedrito Reyes, Zamboanga del Sur police director, yesterday said the order for Hawani's relief was immediate and that Chief Insp. Nelson Eucogco would take over the post.

Damalerio, 33, managing editor of the Zamboanga Scribe and commentator of RPN9-dxKP here, was shot and killed on May 13, some 300 meters from the city police headquarters, after attending a press briefing.

He had criticized Hawani for his alleged failure to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs, video karera, illegal gambling and other criminal activities in the city.

But Hawani said he had considered objective Damalerio's criticisms. He denied allegations that he plotted the journalist's death.

The National Bureau of Investigation has expressed concern over the delay in the issuance of a warrant of arrest against the suspected assailant, PO1 Guillermo Wapile.

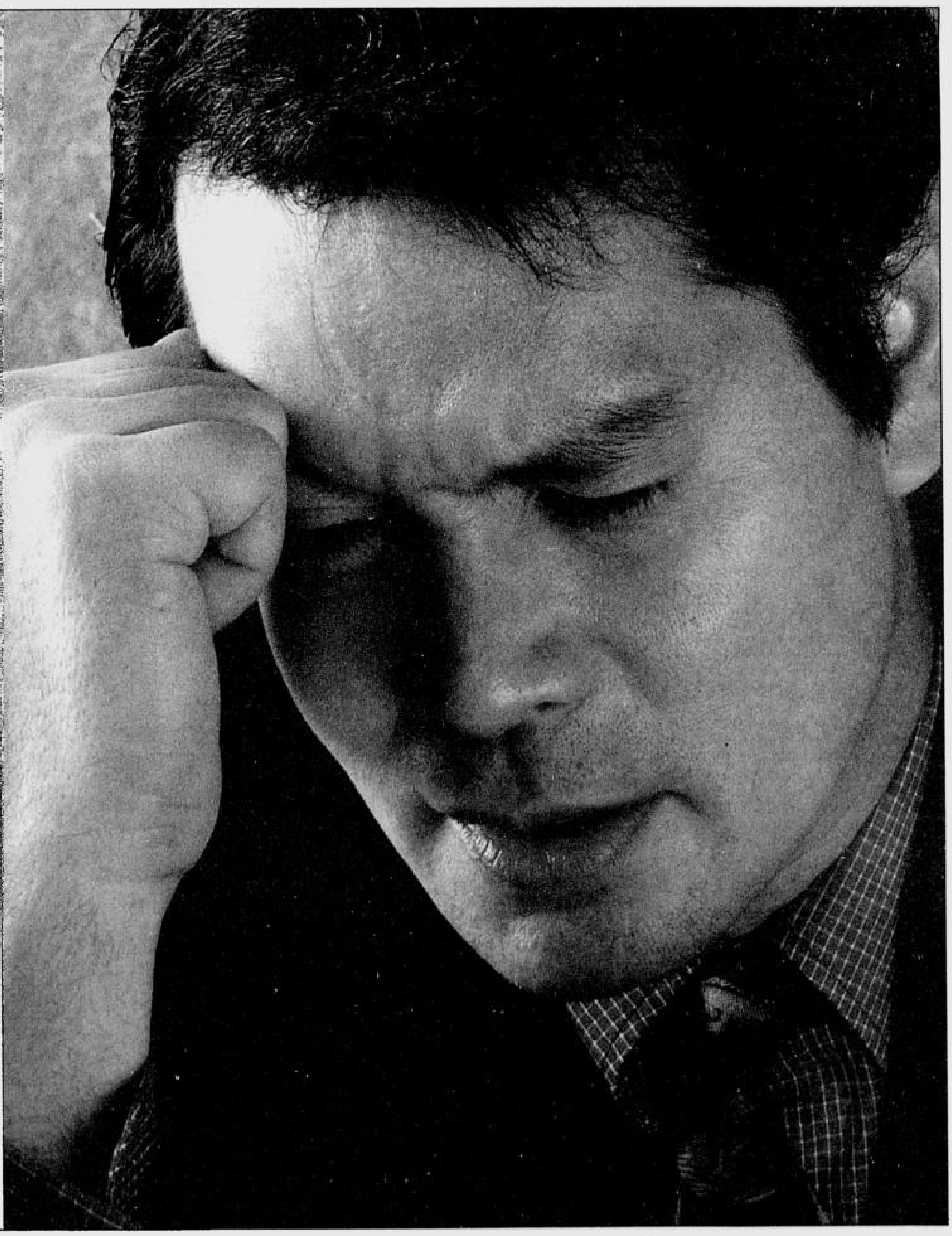
Wapile, who is assigned with the city police intelligence section, was identified by at least two witnesses as the one who shot Damalerio.

Lawyer Friolo Icao Jr., NBI district chief, said he had already requested the city prosecutor's office to cancel the P300,000 bail posted by Wapile in 1999 in connection with car theft and robbery charges filed against him.

Icao said it would only be proper for the prosecutor to cancel the bail after the lawman was linked to the Damalerio murder.

Icao also expressed apprehension about an alleged attempt to cover up Wapile's involvement. But Prosecutor Alandrex Betoya said "we will resolve the case based on the evidence presented."

"We can assure the family of the victim that there will be no white wash," Betoya said. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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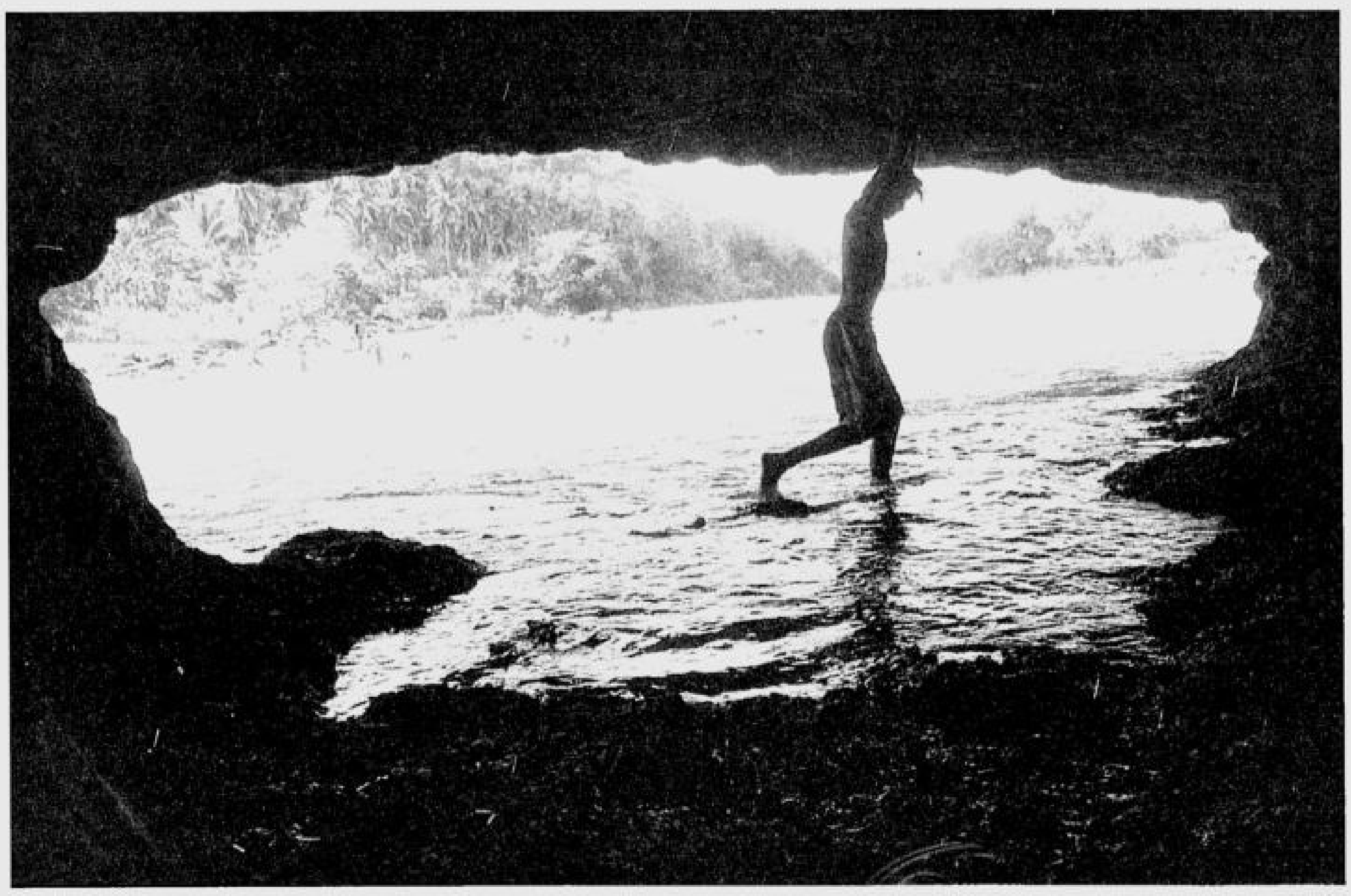


VAL HANDUMON

RELIEF FROM THE SUN
The Macabundol Cave in Mambuaya, Cagayan de Oro City, provides joy and relief from the noon day heat to this fun-loving person.

PNP: Wanted leader of cult still on island

SURIGAO CITY—Cult leader and murder suspect Ruben Ecleo Jr. is still in Dinagat Island, contrary to the claims of his mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, according to police.

"He is still there, I don't think he will leave because he will be subjected to a massive manhunt," Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police chief, said.

Olario said it would be safer for Ruben Jr. to stay on the island, where majority of the residents belong to the Philippine Benevolent Missionary Association (PBMA).

Ecleo heads the PBMA, an anti-communist cult said to have about three million members all over the country.

On Saturday, police claimed at least 30,000 placard-bearing cultists in Dinagat prevented a 30-member team from serving an arrest warrant issued by a Cebu regional trial court against Ecleo.

They warned that they were ready to shed blood and die for their "supreme master," police said.

Ecleo, who twice served as mayor of San Jose town, was implicated in the murder of his wife Alona Bacolod, 27, whose decomposing body was found inside a garbage bag dumped into a ravine in Dalaguete in southern Cebu on Jan. 5.

The suspect's mother earlier told the arresting team, composed of policemen from Cebu and Surigao del Norte, that her son had slipped out of the island to prevent bloodshed on May 21.

Olario told radio station dyLA in Cebu City that what happened last Saturday was a pre-arrest meeting between the team and Representative Ecleo.

But Olario said the congresswoman asked the police to wait until this week when the Court of Appeals was expected to decide on a petition questioning the validity of the arrest warrant.

She assured the police that she would turn over her son to authorities if the CA decides against their favor, Olario said.

But he said that if the legislator breaks her promise, the police would be forced to serve the warrant, in coordination with the military.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas, earlier said that he and 30 of his men were in San Jose, Dinagat to arrest Ecleo and his bodyguard, Juryven Padero.

But the team was met by "some 30,000 members" of the PBMA when they arrived at the pier, Diocos said.

On Monday, Sen. Robert Barbers appealed to PBMA members to refrain from violence and "let judicial process rule."

Olario said a new plan to serve the arrest warrant against Ecleo was already prepared, but he added that authorities would still try the diplomatic approach and other "peaceful avenues" to prevent unwanted violence.

"We don't want this to turn into a bloody confrontation," he said. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Ex-mayor, aide shot dead

NAGA CITY—A former mayor and his aide were shot dead inside his house while another aide was wounded when they were attacked by eight heavily armed men suspected to be communist rebels early yesterday morning.

Senior Supt. Roberto Ronggavilla, provincial police director, identified the fatalities as Leoncio Gan, 70, former mayor of Goa, and his aide, Tyrone Sta. Maria, 56.

Ronggavilla identified the survivor as Catalino Polilio, who was wounded in the arms.

Gan and his aides were unarmed when attacked by suspected members of the New People's Army while Gan was alighting from his car in front of his house, Ronggavilla said.

"We condemned this dastardly act in the strongest term and consider this as another act of atrocity against helpless civilians," he said.

SPO4 Edmundo Alarkon of the Goa police said Sta. Maria, who was driving the car, died on the spot, while Gan tried to escape but was killed inside his house.

Alarkon said the assailants arrived at Gan's house in two passenger jeepneys at about 7:30 a.m.

He said Goa policemen pursued the suspected rebels who fled toward Mt. Isarog. They decided not to continue upon reaching a densely forested area.

Gan had survived three assassination attempts and killed one of his assailants in 2000.

He was one of the most active mayors in the government's counterinsurgency program. He organized a vigilante group called "Kalasag," which human rights groups in Camarines Sur have accused of committing human rights violations. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Defeated mayor won't step down

IBA, Zambales—On the strength of a court ruling, Gov. Vicente Magsaysay ordered Wilma Billman to yield her mayoral post to the newly installed mayor, Enrique Magsaysay.

The governor also directed Billman to immediately turn over the property and money of the Castillejos municipal government to the new mayor.

Billman, however, defied Magsaysay's orders and refused to vacate the office that she had been occupying for a week now since Mayor Magsaysay took his oath of office.

Last week, Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of the Olongapo City regional trial court declared Enrique Magsaysay winner in the May 2001 elections in the town.

Ubiadas unseated Billman after nullifying 1,409 ballots cast in her favor.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

There's Life After Debt

The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 gave a big blow to the Philippine economy. Many were caught flat-footed and unarmed against the turmoil. Business statistics showed that thousands of companies have closed down and a lot more left in comatose status.

In the midst of this economic turbulence, a group of highly skilled professionals in the field of law, finance and the best negotiators, debt managers and specialist gave birth to **Crisis Solutions, Inc.**, a revolutionary, first of its kind company of this nature. Debt management and investor sourcing is **CSI's** core business. It's main objective is to act as a barrier and later on as a "bullet proof vest" to individuals and companies from harassment, threats and litigation imposed by creditors.

According to **Atty. Voltaire C. Dela Cruz, CSI Director for Legal,** the peso deterioration that resulted in the staggering increase in the price of materials, particularly imported ones have adversely affected the capitalists. Some were forced to slow down production, reduced manpower and increase the price of commodities. These compelling factors caused the consumers' purchasing power to enormously decrease. This domino effect led to economic slump which crippled many businessmen.

Due to this crisis, businessmen failed to settle their obligations with their creditors/financiers. Interest loans piled up until they could no longer sustain operation of their businesses. And to make things worst, they were chased, harassed and even sued by their creditors.

"We know the ordeal of companies and people who are indebted - heavily burdened, pressured, scared and feeling like it's their end", according to **Mr. Teddy Esguerra, Marketing Manager.**

"That is why we, at **CSI,** committed ourselves to help our clients in giving them security and peace of mind; **we provide an emergency room for financially distressed** clients for an intensive discussion, planning and immediate implementation of solutions to their problems", Mr. Esguerra quipped.

CSI acts as a bridge between the debtors and the creditors for a win-win situation. However, the task of **CSI** does not end there. They help their clients recover through partnerships with other clients to form alliances. They even source investors who could revive their businesses. They have tie-ups with different local and foreign companies to assist their clients with finances in their rehabilitation programs.

CSI caters to businesses, big or small, who need solutions to their debt problems; who want to live a normal life again.

It's main objective is to act as a barrier and later on as a "bullet proof vest" to individuals and companies from harassment, threats and litigation imposed by creditors.

we provide an emergency room for financially distressed clients for an intensive discussion, planning and immediate implementation of solutions to their problems

"Let's face it, our economy is not that strong yet and apparently there's a lot of people undergoing the same predicament", according to Mr. Esguerra. "As we can see, there are those who have closed their shops already, there are unfinished building constructions, and other indicators that the country has not recovered yet, and we would like to help", he added.

To date, **CSI** has a considerable number of clients whose businesses have already been rehabilitated. Some through loan restructuring, others by getting finances which could be **acquired within 48 hours** to support their operation and likewise merging or tie-ups with other investors. Whatever, now, they're back to business!

"If there's one thing that we could be proud of, is that **CSI** doesn't only help businessmen and individuals, but in our own way we are somehow contributing to the country's economic growth", boasted Atty. Dela Cruz.

Determination, focus, right decisions and rehabilitation is what **CSI** all about. They are geared towards reassuring their clients of total commitment to provide them with solutions to their most complex problems.

You may reach ***Crisis Solutions, Inc., 24-hours a day*** *at tel.* ***# 671-2831 / 671-2832 / 671-3392*** *or visit them at Mezzanine Floor, 818 Bldg. along Pasig Blvd. Rest assured that everything will be treated with strict confidentiality.*

-rhnarasigan-

INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

'A DANGEROUS FALSE GOD'

Protestants challenge globalization

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

AS THE ROMAN Catholic Church is busy parrying the blows brought about by alleged sex scandals involving some priests and a multimillion-peso Website business fiasco, a mainline Protestant Church is seriously taking up the challenge of what it calls "a dangerous false god"—globalization.

"It (globalization) may have created an order that yields certain benefits to humankind, like the information super-highway and some medical breakthroughs," said Rev. Dr. Everett Mendoza.

"But these benefits are only incidental to the purpose of which technological advances have been made—to achieve economic, political and military hegemony by the global elite."

Globalization, he says, "mocks the universal human values of compassion and caring for the weak and vulnerable" as it fosters a "survival-of-fittest mentality and the ideology of power that justifies the domination and conquest of the weak."

Mendoza, the resident theologian of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), expounded on the biblical and theological context of the theme of the UCCP's 7th Quadrennial General Assembly, "The Gospel and Globalization, and the Call to Unity in the Ministry."

The assembly was held in Baguio City from May 20 to 25.

Attended by over 1,000 delegates from the UCCP's 2,507 local churches nationwide, it has taken seriously the issue of globalization because, according to Rev. Reuel Marigza, it attacks core Christian values such as love, justice, peace, equality and justice.

'Issues of faith'

The impacts of a system of globalized economy, which the G-7 super-rich countries of the world control, are also "issues of faith," says Marigza.

The current pervasive globalized free-market system, he says, does not only pave the way for the accumulation of wealth in a few hands.

It also encourages a "throw-away consumerist lifestyle" that entices people to consume more and more. This ultimately threatens the "integrity of God's creation" as the world's natural resources are irreversibly destroyed, Marigza said.

To support such a system, Marigza notes that the Philippines, for example, liberalized the mining industry through the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. The law encourages transnational mining corporations to mine in the country through destructive methods such as open-pit mining.

OPEN-PIT mining at the Antamok gold mines in Itogon, Benguet. FILE PHOTO

In a position paper, the UCCP General Assembly, the church's highest policymaking body, supports the national call by various sectors to scrap the 1995 Mining Act and the call for a moratorium on all mining contract applications.

As a testimony over how transnational mining operations adversely affect people, the UCCP brought along Alfredo Liwanag, 55, a Mangyan elder from Occidental Mindoro, who was forced out of his village after the government sent soldiers there to protect the operations of Mindex-Crew, a Canadian-Norwegian mining firm.

In a testimony before an evangelical worship service at the UCCP Baguio church, Liwanag shared the sufferings and hopes of the Mangyans whose communities, he said, have been divided and troubled since the entry of the mining giant.

Liwanag was among 50 Mangyan families now living as "internal refugees" in Manila after militarization and mining operations drove them out of Mindoro last year. He said he was falsely accused of being a member of the New People's Army unit that burned some of Mindex-Crew's mining equipment.

"I'm not an NPA (member) because I don't even know how to fire a gun," he told the INQUIRER in Tagalog. "Our dreams are simple. We only want to till our own land in peace. As a people, we Mangyans are peace loving and hospitable. Unfortunately, some people have taken advantage of our hospitality and illiteracy."

UCCP leaders, meanwhile, clarified questions about their position and views on development.

"We are not anti-development but we want a kind of development initiated by Filipinos, not by transnational corporations," Bishop Emeritus Gabriel Garol told reporters during a press conference last week.

"We seek a kind of development that restores the dignity of human beings under a kingdom of God on earth where everybody shares in the blessings of the abundant life Christ promised."

According to Garol, the UCCP has various commissions that seek to help restore the human dignity of farmers, laborers, indigenous peoples, and women and children, whom the UCCP considers the "most vulnerable" to the effects of a globalized economic monopoly.

Bad omen for Cimatu?

AFTER the falling chair incident during the installation of Gen. Roy Cimatu as the 29th Armed Forces chief of staff last week, now it's the retreating "white carabao" incident.

HOMETOWN
Snapshots

While trooping the line during the incorporation of 438 plebes into the Philippine Military Academy cadet corps in Baguio City on Saturday, Cimatu's jeep took a wrong turn.

While trying to go back, the jeep, known as the "white carabao," slipped and hit the front of the back-up jeep holding Cimatu's personal military flag.

During last week's formal change-of-command ceremonies installing Cimatu at Camp Aguinaldo, at least three guests fell from their chairs, prompting President **Macapagal-Arroyo** to say that the next time another one would fall, it would be the command responsibility of Cimatu.

While the PMA cadets were marching down Borromeo Field in Baguio at noon, rain started falling. The rain soaked the cadets even as Cimatu reminisced about his own incorporation as a PMA cadet 36 years ago.

"What I can only remember from our guest speaker's talk then was that one of the plebes was going to be the chief of staff. I didn't expect to be that one," he said.

He said sacrifice and dedication were the things that brought him to the AFP high post.

Frank Cimatu

CIMATU

Help save Busol watershed

TOOTS SOBERANO
NURTURING pine tree saplings at the Busol watershed in Baguio City.

HE YOUNGEST pine tree saplings planted at Baguio's Busol watershed belong to this year's lucky summer visitors. So they shouldn't be surprised if they get a call soon from local environmentalists for them to return to Busol.

The Baguio Regreening Movement has started calling up "veterans" of the Eco Walk program, a Galing Pook awardee, to replenish the watershed's pine trees, after a brush fire in March ate up eight hectares of the city forest.

The Baguio Water District raised concern about the fire's impact on the city's water resources, as the summer capital endured an abnormally dry prelude to the anticipated El Niño phenomenon in September.

According to a three-year-old watershed management plan, Busol produces 780 gallons of water per minute, which contribute substantially to the BWD's daily supply of 27,000 cubic meters of water.

The fire gutted the Eco Walk *muyongs* (Ifugao tree farms) being managed by the Saint Louis University, Baguio Colleges Foundation and the Pines City National High School, said Eco Walk founder **Ramon Dacawi**.

Eco Walk combines the interactive nature of excursions and lectures about indigenous forest management by allowing visitors a day-long hike through the forest and giving them an option to plant and nurture their own pine trees.

Dacawi introduced the *muyongs* to regenerate the watershed, whose vegetative and pine tree cover had been depleted to 20 percent by squatters in 1989.

Vincent Cabreza

Shifting to shark fishing

WITH THE LOW income derived from fishing, several fishermen in the remote coastal town of Maconacon, Isabela, have shifted to shark hunting as an alternative source of livelihood.

Every week, several fishermen in Maconacon in the Northern Sierra Madre mountain ranges scour the Pacific Ocean in search of sharks, which fetch higher prices in the market than other fish caught in town's waters.

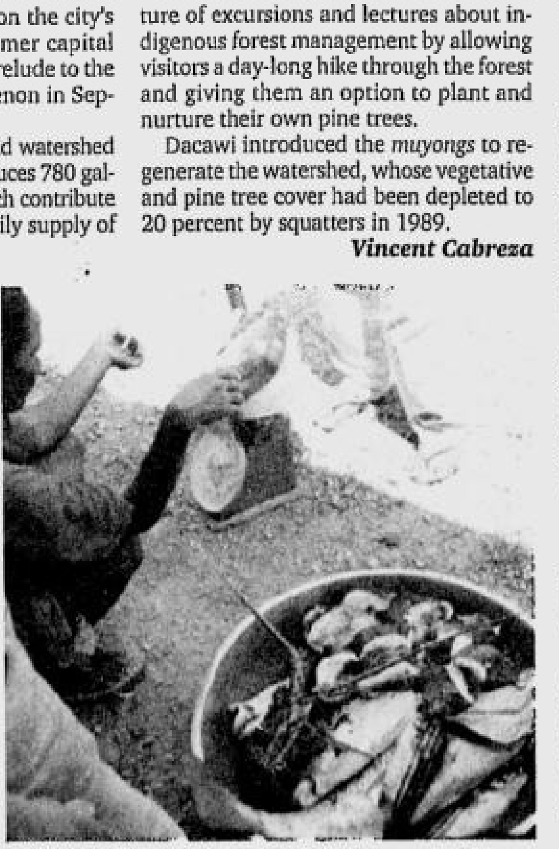
Rodney Dizon, 28, of Barangay Fely in Maconacon, said the high cost of shark meat and fins have attracted local fishermen to shift to shark fishing.

"Shark meat and fins are expensive in Manila so fishermen here have turned to shark hunting," Dizon said in Filipino.

Twice a month, three to five sharks of various sizes are caught, butchered and sold by fishermen to buyers in Metro Manila. Shark fins are sold from P3,000 to P4,000 a kilogram in Metro Manila outlets, it was learned.

Shark meat and fins are used mostly in Chinese cuisine as soup ingredients. Many believe that shark fins are aphrodisiacs and sources of supplemental energy.

Ben Moses Ebreo


A VENDOR sells fish caught in the waters off Maconacon town in Isabela. BEN MOSES EBREO

Of caregivers and mountains

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

EDUCATION is how you make it, and Baguio schools are tuning in to new courses for students who want to make it big.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

From only two a couple of years ago, 10 schools in the city are now offering caregiver courses. The short-term courses allow graduates to become caregivers to babies and adult patients in Canada, the United States and in European countries.

Most of the enrollees, it turned out, are nurses, said an officer of the Technical and Skills Development Authority in the Cordillera.

"Many of these nurses take this course and enter the foreign countries as nannies or nursing home attendants. But they use this (caregiver course certificate) as their stepping stone and work out their employment as nurses later on," said Hilda Wanawan, technical and skills development officer of Tesda-Cordillera.

But a nursing degree is not required, Wanawan said. Some schools only require at least 72 units of tertiary education.

The caregiver courses, which usually last from six to seven months, cost from P16,000 to P18,000.

Two years ago, only the MMS Development Training Center and the Size International Center offer these courses. This year, they are joined by the ANA Training Center, BRJ At Your Service Center, Meridian Paramedical and Technical Institute, Robbitech Institute, Philippine Women's University–Baguio Extension, Baguio Central University and the Baguio City Schools of Arts and Trade.

According to the National Statistics Office, about 3,000 Filipino caregivers and others in related work (assuming they are classified as health associate professional technicians) were working abroad last year. All of them were women.

Popular courses

There were also 43,000 life science and health professionals listed in the NSO survey, including 33,000 women.

Joyce Tayag, an elementary education graduate who is now enrolled in a caregiver course, said she has better chances of working as a nanny abroad than waiting for a political patron to get her a job in one of the public schools.

Aside from the caregiver courses, the other popular courses are nursing, physical therapy and information technology.

The Commission on Higher Education designated four Baguio universities as centers of development. These are the University of Baguio (sanitary engineering), University of Philippines College Baguio (biology, mathematics and physics), Baguio Colleges Foundation (sanitary engineering and information technology) and the Saint Louis University (business, architecture and civil, electrical, electronics and communications, industrial and mechanical engineering).

To better suit education in the mountain city, the SLU, BCF and the Benguet State University teamed up for the first-ever offering of a Master of Science in Mountain Engineering.

Since Cordillera, by its name, is a mountainous region and Baguio is the center of education in Northern Luzon, it is only fitting that such course would start here, Dr. Cipriano Consolacion, BSU president, said.

Consolacion said the poor state of the mountain ecosystems prompted them to create the mountain engineering program.

Among the courses to be offered by the BSU are tropical geomorphology and geology, silviculture, forest water management and forest product utilization.

The BCF will offer research and statistical methods, applied engineering analysis, numerical methods and optimization techniques, applied hydrology and drainage engineering.

The SLU will offer mechanics of soils, earth structures, geological rock engineering and tunneling, road design and operation, environmental engineering and environmental impact assessment.

The mountains in the world are home to 10 percent of the world's population, the United Nations said, but the mountains provide water for half of the population.

The Cordillera, for example, is the watershed of northwestern Luzon. One-third of the country's population lives in the mountain areas and half of the area requires intensive conservation.

BCF president Ricardo Pama, a civil engineer, said the new course is the first of its kind in the country. The closest to it in the country is terrestrial ecosystems and watershed management courses (with some focus on mountains) at the UP College Los Baños.

Other schools in the world offer mountain geomorphology and mountain environment courses.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and the Western section of Northern Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 21° Lo 18°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 22°
Laoag	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 29° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/29/02

ROUNDUP

Ex-police exec slain

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two unidentified men shot and killed the former police chief of Lake Sebu town in South Cotabato early Monday. Former Senior Insp. Amil Abtahi died instantly from two bullet wounds in the head. The victim was riding on his Honda Dream motorcycle and was going home when he was attacked. Police were still determining the real motive for the killing.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Teachers' bonuses stolen

DAVAO CITY—Public schoolteachers in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, lost their mid-year bonuses to three armed robbers on Thursday. The robbers took P90,000 from Melchor Bago, 36, a teacher at the Bacungan Elementary School in Magsaysay, who had withdrawn the money from a bank in Digos City at 10 a.m. to give to his co-teachers the next day. Bago tried to shout for help but was shot in the hip by one of the robbers, who fled on board a motorcycle. The victim was brought to the Digos Doctor's Hospital.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Man in sex abuse held

DAVAO CITY—A man was arrested on Friday afternoon after he was accused of sexually abusing two girls, aged 11 and 8. Police said the suspect, Ernesto Bandiola, 60, of Purok 7, Barangay Madapo, was arrested after a neighbor saw him allegedly mashing the victims' private parts. Reports said the girls had frequented the place of Bandiola who pretended to be a "quack doctor" and gave them "massage." Bandiola has denied the allegations, insisting that he treated the girls as his grandchildren.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Market rehab pushed

DAET, Camarines Norte—This capital town will push through with its plan to rehabilitate the public market, according to Mayor Tito Sarion. The plan was presented during a recent public hearing conducted by the mayor and other town officials and attended by representatives of Deventures Co., market stall owners and other occupants. Sarion said the present market occupants would be relocated at the Central Plaza Complex to give way to the rehabilitation, which could take eight to 12 months.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Young lawmakers' meet

CALAPAN CITY—Some 50 young legislators attended the 2nd Southern Tagalog Regional Assembly of the National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) held in Puerto Galera. The participants discussed the Development Management Program for Young Legislators, which was recently drafted by the NMYL National Council. NMYL national president Herbert Bautista cited the coastal and tourism development program of Puerto Galera as a model for other provinces. Among those who attended was Education Undersecretary Victor Andres Manhit.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected NPA killings

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels killed three residents of Guinobatan, Albay in separate incidents this month. Police identified the victims as Luis Pincaro, 33; Loreto Presila, 40; and Leo Monarez. Pincaro was shot by two men in front of his house in Barangay San Jose. He died from three bullet wounds in the back and another in the left armpit. Four men gunned down Presila at his house in Barangay Morera. Monarez, of Barangay San Francisco, was shot dead by unidentified men.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wanted: Prosecutors

VIGAN CITY—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez noted a serious problem in the recruitment of prosecutors in the country. "The crisis is real," Perez told local officials and prosecutors during his visit here on May 19. He said only a few apply for the position because of low salary. To attract applicants, the government needs to increase by 50 to 100 percent the present P21,000 salary of a prosecutor, he said. He will support the lifting of the salary standardization law to pave the way for the increase in salary of government prosecutors, Perez said.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Army pullout urged

THE PARTY-LIST group Bayan Muna has welcomed efforts by Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan to seek the help of the Commission on Human Rights in investigating alleged human rights violations in the province. But, in a statement, it also urged the governor to call for the urgent removal of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade in the province. "Since testimonies point to Army soldiers as the perpetrators, the situation warrants the removal of the Army brigade deployed in the province," said Robert de Castro, a Bayan Muna official. Reports said two Bayan Muna leaders of San Teodoro, Ruben Apolinar and his wife Rodriga, were killed along with their 8-year-old child. Earlier, Expedito and Manuela Albarillo, also Bayan Muna coordinators of the town, were killed by eight armed men.

Bicolanos want scrapping of PPA, no pork for solons

LEGAZPI CITY—Various sectors yesterday demanded the scrapping of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) being imposed by the National Power Corp. on consumers and suggested other measures to lower electricity costs.

In a consultation meeting with Napocor officials here, former Albay Gov. Jose Estevez challenged legislators to contribute some of their huge pork barrel funds to ease the financial burden of the state-owned firm.

Pork barrel refers to funds included in the national budget that are used for projects identified by senators and congressmen.

Estevez, who is also a former board chair of the financially strapped Albay Electric Cooperative, said it would be very hard to convince the congressmen to share their funds.

But he said a proposal made jokingly might just do the trick.

Mayor Patria Gutierrez of Tiwi, Albay proposed the abolition of the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

A former Napocor executive, Gutierrez said the functions of the NEA should be transferred to Napocor as part of efforts to streamline the delivery of services.

Aleco, the sole power distributor in Albay, is in the red because of alleged mismanagement by the NEA executives who took over the cooperative due to unpaid financial obligations.

In a statement submitted to Alexander Japon, Napocor business planning and development department officer-in-charge, the Bikol Power (People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates) opposed the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9136) or Epira.

Protesters rally against the PPA in Manila. FILE PHOTO

It said the law has made it legal to further saddle consumers with charges like the PPA and the currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera).

This means that consumers are paying an additional P3.97 per kilowatt-hour that had already been "prohibitively" priced at P3.1913, the Bikol Power said.

The multisectoral organization's convenor group includes representatives from the business community, local government units, subdivision homeowners associations, the urban poor and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Japon said Napocor had no control over the PPA because it is under the jurisdiction of the Energy Regulatory Commission, the government agency that regulates the operation of all power utilities in the country.

The PPA is currently under review, he said.

Lights off

In Laguna, student leaders at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños have embarked on an information campaign to oppose the PPA among households angry at alleged unlawful charges imposed by the Manila Electric Corp. on their customers.

Jeffrey Ian Dy, chair of the Samahan ng Kabataan para sa Bayan (Sakbayan) alliance of 51 campus groups, said his group started organizing the protesting households.

The University Student Council headed by its chair Simonette Lim, formed "Serve the People Brigade" groups, in cooperation with Sakbayan and the party-list Bayan-Muna chapter in Southern Tagalog, to campaign against the PPA.

A 15-minute "lights-out" protest has been scheduled on June 5, starting at 9 p.m. It hopes to involve about 2,000 households in Los Baños.

Abigail Beng Wayan, chair of the UPLB College of Human Ecology Student Council, said the June 5 activity would lead to more protests in a few days in Laguna and other provinces in the region. ***Roly Embile and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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SC remands Kuratong case to Quezon City court

From page A1

Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

And unlike most decisions, which are authored by a single "ponente," or writer, court sources said yesterday's ruling was written by a committee of five justices.

The decision—and the long wait for it—drew numerous reactions.

In the Senate, the reaction fell along party lines, with Senate President Franklin Drilon reminding reporters that Lacson's parliamentary immunity did not extend to the case and opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara welcoming the decision as Lacson's chance to "clear his name forever."

Reached for comment over the phone, Lacson's counsel said the high court's decision did not affect their case either way. "It is neither favorable nor adverse to us," said lawyer Sigfrid Fortun.

"It is essentially a decision that wants to gather further information on a decision which had long become final because it was never sought to be reconsidered by the prosecution in 1999," Fortun said. He said he could not comment further until he read the decision.

"What is certain is that it is going to take more time which will ultimately be unfavorable for us," he said.

But PlunderWatch, an anti-corruption watchdog group, aired a warning about "delaying tactics in an attempt to whitewash the case before the public and drag the multiple murder case way beyond the 2004 elections."

Adduce evidence

The high court remanded the case to Judge Theresa Yadao of QC Regional Trial Court Branch 81 "so that the State Prosecutors and respondent Lacson can adduce evidence" on whether the case should be dismissed or not.

The full court resolution was prepared by a five-man committee composed of Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Santiago Kapunan, Vicente Mendoza and Artemio Panganiban.

Thirteen justices concurred in the decision. Associate Justice Jose Melo, who is scheduled to retire today, opted not to register a vote. Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, President Macapagal-Arroyo's first appointee to the high court, did not participate in the deliberation after he inhibited himself. Lacson had sought his inhibition for alleged bias.

Lacson's lawyers also sought the inhibition of the two other justices appointed by Ms Macapagal—Associate Justices Renato Corona and Alicia Austria-Martinez.

But yesterday the court said that Corona and Martinez had studied the case carefully and therefore participated in the deliberations.

In an 18-page decision, the high court directed Yadao to thoroughly study the records of the cases to determine whether the state should respect Judge Wenceslao Agnir's provisional dismissal of the 11 murder complaints in 1999.

The provisional dismissal had become permanent with the lapse of the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of the cases in 2001.

"Indeed the records of this case are inconclusive on the factual issue of whether the multiple murder cases against respondent Lacson are being revived within or beyond the two-year bar," the resolution read.

"The reckoning date of the two-year bar has to be determined—whether it is from the date of the Order of (Judge) Agnir dismissing the cases or from the dates the Order were received by the various offended parties or from the date of effectivity of the new rule," the court added.

LACSON

Two-year bar

"If the cases were revived only after the two-year bar, the State must be given the opportunity to justify its failure to comply with the said timeline," the SC said. "It can therefore present compelling reasons to justify the revival of the cases beyond the two-year bar."

"In light of the lack of or the conflicting evidence on the various requirements to determine the applicability (of the two-year bar), this Court is not in a position to rule whether or not the re-filing of the cases for multiple murder against (Lacson) are enjoined," the SC said.

"Fundamental fairness requires that both the prosecution and the respondent Lacson be afforded the opportunity to be heard," it added.

The SC's ruling stemmed from an 89-page petition filed by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo last year asking the tribunal to lift the Court of Appeals' permanent injunction on the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case.

The Department of Justice on April 17, 2001 ordered the reinvestigation and the reopening of the preliminary investigation of the case against Lacson and the other PNP officers accused in the case.

The reopening of the case came just three months after Lacson's patron, former President Joseph Estrada, was ousted by People Power II.

Escape arrest?

In the Senate, Drilon said Lacson could not invoke his being a member of the Senate to escape arrest.

Drilon cited Article 6, Section 11 of the Constitution, which states that a senator "shall; in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session."

Angara said the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case would give Lacson "a chance for him to clear his name forever."

"I have no doubt he will be able to do that," Angara said.

Another opposition senator, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, said the Supreme Court decision "ran smack of political accommodation for Malacañang, intended to cut down to size Lacson whom the Palace perceives as a serious threat in the 2004 elections."

"The Court did not issue a definitive ruling on the issue because it has chosen to toss back the case to the lower court apparently to avoid disappointing Malacañang," Aquino-Oreta said.

"(Lacson) could even come out a martyr or a hero in this case whichever way it is decided. He could be regarded a martyr if he is convicted or a hero if he is acquitted," said Sen. Noli de Castro.

Sen. Robert Barbers, with whom Lacson had traded barbs Monday, said, "We now have to respect (the) decision." Barbers and Lacson made up after the latter visited the former at his Senate office to apologize.

Glimpse of hope

Government lawyers, who have been pressing for the prosecution of all 38 accused in the controversial Kuratong Baleleng cases, yesterday saw a glimpse of hope in their quest for justice.

Despite mixed reactions over the vagueness of the SC decision, lawyers from the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and the leader of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) were optimistic that the ruling would eventually lead to the reopening of the 11 murder cases.

FLAG lawyer Arno Sanidad, who has handled the case since 1996, said the fate of the state's right to seek vindication for the wrong done to its citizens rested solely on the high court's decision.

"Oh yes. It's about time that justice is done and laid to rest," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview last night.

Sanidad, who tried not to comment on the ruling as he has yet to be furnished of the decision, said that the SC's decision on the issue would at least "start it."

VACC's Dante Jimenez, however, waxed jubilant over the SC decision.

He said the ruling was like the first drop of rain after a long summer.

"We should welcome the decision as it did not bar the government from further prosecuting the cases. It's better than nothing," he said.

"There's that hope that the cases will finally be reopened. This is a victory of sorts because we are now convinced that SC justices ruled regardless of who is the appointing power."

Jimenez pointed out that the ruling proved the "independence and impartial judgment" of the high court which, he said, ruled solely on the "substantial aspects of the petition."

Sanidad admitted that unlike the other "comparable cases in the Supreme Court," the resolution on the government petition to reopen the murder cases had been swift.

"The high court acted on it with dispatch," he stressed.

Sanidad, who once claimed that the revived cases would finally jail Sen. Panfilo Lacson, said that the "political issue" being raised by the Lacson camp "is not the real issue."

"The issue here is the murder of the (11 gang members) and who were responsible for it. And ultimately if it is dismissed on a technicality, do we want murderers in high office?"

Lacson "does not want to vindicate himself, he just want to get it away with his crimes," he added.

In the House, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla claimed that the President merely wanted to destroy all her potential rivals for 2004, including her own allies. Padilla made the statement in anticipation of a Supreme Court ruling on the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Padilla said the government's move to arrest Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with the Kuratong rubout case is meant to derail Lacson's possible presidential bid in 2004.

"This administration has the propensity to destroy possible presidential candidates," said Padilla, a leader of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. ***With reports from Volt Contreras, Juliet Javellana, AFP***

Chronology of Kuratong whodunit

From page A1

by Chief Supt. Romeo Acop.

May 19, 1995—The PNP releases a seven-page after-operations report signed by Lacson, Canson, Acop and Zubia.

May 22, 1995—Newspapers report that a certain SPO2 Eduardo de los Reyes had claimed that the killing of the 11 gang members was a "rubout" or summary execution and not a shootout.

May 23, 1995—De los Reyes executes an affidavit saying he was part of the ABRITG that arrested the gang members at their safe house in Superville. He said the 11 were tied up and brought in two vans to Camp Crame where the decision to summarily execute them was made.

May 26, 1995—Senate committees on justice, national defense and crime open the first of three hearings investigating the incident. On the same day, SPO2 Corazon de la Cruz, a CIC investigator, executes an affidavit corroborating the material allegations of De los Reyes, saying he was with De los Reyes from the time the 11 suspects were arrested to the time they were killed.

May 31, 1995—Armando Capili, a reporter of the tabloid Remate, executes an affidavit stating he was present when the gang members were arrested in Superville.

June 1, 1995—PNP Inspectorate files a complaint with the Ombudsman for multiple murder against Canson, Lacson and 96 ABRITG members who took part in the operation.

June 21, 1995—Senate committees report out their findings. Their conclusion: It was a rubout, which the PNP had tried to cover up.

July 25, 1995—The National Bureau of Investigation reports on its own probe. Its conclusion: It was a grand conspiracy within ABRITG to summarily execute the victims, and which ABRITG leaders later tried to cover up in the after-operations report.

Oct. 20, 1995—Ombudsman panel led by Graft Investigator Bienvenido Blancaflor clears Lacson and all other 97 respondents in the case.

Nov. 21, 1995—On recommendation of the review panel chaired by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Francisco Villa, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto reverses the first panel and finds probable cause for the prosecution of murder charges against 26 of the 98 officers and personnel of ABRITG, 10 as principals and 16 as accessories after-the-fact. On the same day, the Ombudsman files with the Sandiganbayan 11 information sheets for murder. Charged as principals in the killing of the suspected gang members were Lacson and 11 others. Immediately, the accused moved that the cases be remanded to the Ombudsman for reinvestigation, which the Sandiganbayan granted in its order dated Nov. 27, 1995.

Nov. 28, 1995—Acting Special Prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo is removed as chief prosecutor of the case. It was later found out that Tamayo's daughter was a lawyer of Canson's. As a member of the Villa panel, he had voted to clear all 98 respondents. A panel is created to conduct a third investigation.

Feb. 16, 1996—Acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Roger Berbano, head of third panel, quits some three weeks after receiving death threats.

Feb. 26, 1996—Unable to reach a consensus, the four-member third panel submits individual findings to Desierto.

March 1, 1996—Desierto files 11 amended informations sheets with the Sandiganbayan for murder. He reduces the charge against Lacson to that of a mere accessory. Charged as principals: Chief Insp. Michael Ray Aquino, Chief Insp. Erwin T. Villacorte, Senior Insp. Joselito T. Esquivel, Insp. Ricardo G. Dandan, SPO4 Vicente P. Arnado, SPO4 Roberto T. Langcauon, SPO2 Virgilio V. Paragas, SPO2 Rolando R. Jimenez, SPO1 Wilfredo G. Cuartero, SPO1 Roberto O. Agbalog and SPO1 Osmundo B. Carino. Charged as accessories after-the-fact: Lacson, Canson, Acop, Zubia, Supt. Almario A. Hilario, Chief Insp. Cesar O. Mancao II, Chief Insp. Gil L. Meneses, Senior Insp. Glenn Dumlao, Senior Insp. Rolando Anduyan, Insp. Ceasar Tannagan, SPO3 Willy Nuas, SPO3 Cicero S. Bacolod, PO2 Norberto Lasaga, PO2 Leonardo Gloria and PO2 Alejandro G. Liwanag.

March 1996—Lacson questions the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan before the Supreme Court.

June 30, 1998—Joseph Estrada, former head of the PACC, is sworn in as the country's 13th president. He later appoints Lacson as chief of the newly formed Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Jan. 20, 1999—The SC upholds Lacson's petition and directs the transfer of the cases to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. The case is eventually raffled off to RTC Branch 81 under Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr.

March 31, 1999—Agnir dismisses the murder charges against Lacson and 25 other officers, after the accused presented affidavits of recantation of the principal witnesses including De los Reyes, De la Cruz, Capili and the private complainants. The court dismisses the cases "provisionally." (Agnir is currently an associate justice of the Court of Appeals.)

Nov. 18, 1999—While the case is pending at the SC, Estrada appoints Lacson as PNP chief.

Jan. 20, 2001—Estrada is deposed by People Power II. On the same day, Lacson relinquishes his post as PNP chief.

March 24, 2001—New witnesses—Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos and former Insp. Ysmael S. Yu—surface and execute their affidavit, alleging that the incident was really a rubout.

April 17, 2001—The Department of Justice issues an order constituting a panel to conduct a reinvestigation/reopening of the preliminary investigation of the cases.

May 14, 2001—Running on the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa ticket, Lacson is elected to the Senate.

June 5, 2001—Lacson files a petition with the RTC Branch 40 of Manila for a temporary restraining order to stop the preliminary investigation. The court denies Lacson's petition. He then files a petition with the CA seeking to nullify the order of the Manila RTC and to stop the DOJ's preliminary investigation.

June 6, 2001—While the petition is pending, the DOJ files new cases against Lacson and several others. He is accused as a principal again.

Aug. 24, 2001—Voting 4-1, the CA's Special Third Division dismisses the 11 complaints of murder on a technicality: the lapse of a two-year prescriptive period for reviving the case. It also ordered QC RTC Branch 81 and the DOJ to refrain from further acting on the complaints against Lacson. The appellate court notes that the DOJ revived the cases only on April 19, 2001, two years after the Quezon City RTC "provisionally" dismissed the cases.

Sept. 5, 2001—Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo files an 89-page petition with the Supreme Court asking it to lift the CA's permanent injunction. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research; Sources: DOJ resolution and PDI Archives***

FVR wants emergency powers for GMA, too

From page A1

Ms Macapagal what the Emergency Power Crisis Act (Epca) of 1993 and the Expanded Build-Operate-Transfer Law of 1994 did for him when his administration had to solve the power crisis in the early 1990s.

"The Epira is more than just about the privatization of the power industry. The law is very general and there is a need to make it more specific (and more responsive to the country's present problems)," the former President said.

He noted that the Epca was so specific that it listed 246 "due diligence" procedures for the government to follow before the President could exercise the emergency powers meant to solve the power crisis.

"That way, the President could do everything she wants to solve the power crisis according to the law," Ramos said.

In the Senate, Sen. John Osmeña is no longer keen on inviting Ramos to testify on the onerous contracts entered into by the government with the IPPs during his term.

Osmeña said there was no more need to summon the former President because, according to the senator, the administration-backed committee report on the proposed reduction of PPA charges would not prosper in the Senate.

"With all the hearings going on here in the Commission on Appointments and the amount of time that we have, I think we will just have to put that off," he said.

Sweeteners

The former President also suggested government-mandated "sweeteners" for investors in the power sector.

He mentioned performance incentives for efficient IPPs and tax breaks for deserving power companies.

Ramos said he agreed with the steps being taken by the President to address the current situation. "I support the lowering of the PPA and the refinancing of the power contracts," he said.

He said that savings from reduced payments of power-related debts could be used to further lower power rates.

Silent

Ramos was silent on calls to renegotiate the contracts with the IPPs.

The government is renegotiating two of its 35 contracts with IPPs to lower electricity costs, according to acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez heads the government panel.

Afable also disclosed the government would not renew four IPP contracts set to expire this year.

"The retirement of these expiring IPPs and the renegotiation will lower the PPA. By what percentage I do not know," he said after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

He said the Department of Energy was renegotiating with Enron, operator of a power station in Subic, and Chevron-Texaco, operator of a power plant in San Pascual, Batangas.

A list of IPP contracts provided by the Palace showed that Enron entered into a 15-year contract with the government on Jan. 7, 1993 to operate a bunker-fired power plant in Subic.

The 25-year contract with San Pascual Cogeneration Co. International B.V. took effect on Sept. 10, 1997.

Afable could not say why the government chose to renegotiate with Enron and Chevron-Texaco.

"Obviously (they) agreed to renegotiate," he said.

"If they can lower the (PPA) charges that they're asking from Napocor (National Power Corp.), that will be the objective," he added.

The contracts that will not be renewed are those with Hopewell Project Management Co. Ltd./Mirant Phils. Corp., which runs a power station in Navotas; Enron Power Development Corp. in Pinamucan, Batangas; Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp./Toledo Power Co. in Toledo, Cebu; and an IPP operating in Iligan City.

Afable said other power stations could supply the electricity generated by these firms.

"When the review (of the 35 IPP contracts) is finished, I guess other forms of relief will be considered by the Cabinet," Afable said.

The review panel, composed of the departments of finance, of energy and of justice, has until June to submit its findings.

Non-stop

In the House of Representatives, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales dared an IPP to operate its plant non-stop for 24 hours in the next seven days to prove its executive's claim that it was capable of generating all the electricity needed by its consumers in the Cavite export processing zone.

Rosales said that the House was "subjected to the arrogance" of Oliver Cruz, director of the Magellan Cogeneration Inc. (MCI) at the resumption of the House committee on energy's hearing on the IPP contracts of Napocor yesterday.

Rosales was angered by Cruz's move to question the authority of Congress to inquire into the capacity of MCI to generate the power needed by the export processing zone in Cavite.

She also assailed Cruz for his "temerity to request the committee to strike out statements and questions regarding the failure of MCI to deliver on its guarantee of generating all the electricity needed by the Cavite zone."

If the company fails to deliver, MCI-Covanta's contract should be revoked by the Macapagal administration, according to Rosales.

"And Congress has clear grounds on which to deport Mr. Cruz on the basis of perjurious statements and the status of his stay in the country," she said.

Rosales said Cruz had identified himself as a retiree and a holder of an American passport.

At his press briefing, Ramos suggested other ways to lower power rates.

He batted for a one-day power sale in which the IPPs and Napocor would sell surplus power to industrial end-users.

Ramos said this scheme would benefit consumers as they would not pay for the excess electric power.

The former President also suggested that Meralco consumers be given dividends. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

Take over Meralco, 2 solons urge gov't

From page A1

through its power of eminent domain.

"The power of eminent domain is the ultimate right of sovereign power to expropriate not only public but even private property of all citizens within the territorial sovereignty, for public purposes," Suplico said in his bill.

Remedy

Suplico said expropriation of the property or rights of independent power producers (IPPs) and private firms engaged in power generation, transmission and distribution was the "remedy to the rising cost of electricity."

Section 18, Article XII of the Constitution provides that "the State may, in the interest of national welfare or defense, establish and operate vital industries and upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and industries and other private enterprises to be operated by government."

Suplico said it was up to the government to determine just compensation for Meralco.

But Suplico said just compensation should be the value of Meralco's assets minus the billions of pesos in PPA that the utility firm had collected from consumers.

Wrong signal

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chair of the House committee on legislative franchises, said he was against a government takeover of Meralco.

"If the government takes over a private entity it might send a wrong signal to the business community," Zubiri said.

"What the government should do is to strengthen the regulatory powers of the ERC and penalize the erring distribution companies rather than 'hostaging' the power firms," he said.

At the hearing, Paras asked if the Meralco franchise bill had been approved in the House. Suplico told him that the House had approved it and that Paras was one of the co-authors of House Bill No. 4451.

Paras said he was not aware that the franchise bill was approved in the plenary and explained his being a co-author by saying that members of the committee on legislative franchises were made co-authors of the bill.

HB 4451 renewed Meralco's 25-year franchise to supply electricity to Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Pampanga.

Paras then proposed that the franchise bill's approval be recalled at the House, saying the PPA controversy had not erupted when the House approved the bill.

"At the time we were deliberating on the franchise, the issue of the PPA was not yet there. But since Meralco continues to collect these PPAs, it has no reason to get a new franchise," Paras said.

The franchise bill was approved before Congress adjourned last March.

Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar and Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza joined the call for the recall of the bill renewing Meralco's franchise.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said he would support the recall of the bill and government takeover of Meralco.

Not easy

But Padilla said it might not be easy to recall the House approval because HB 4451 had been transmitted to the Senate.

He said the opportunity to question the franchise would be at the bicameral conference committee and at the ratification in the House of the reconciled bill.

Padilla said he would nominate Villar to the bicameral committee so that she could question the PPA.

Villar expressed surprise that Meralco was able to collect P12.3 billion in additional PPA without authority from the ERC.

"It's not exactly as if we did not know about it," Barin said.

She said that after the ERC discovered the unauthorized collection, it served a cease-and-desist order on Meralco on May 2.

"That's why we stopped it. The order still stands. In their billings for June, there should be no additional PPA charges," Barin said.

Asked if Meralco could be made to refund the unauthorized PPA collections, Barin could not make a definite commitment.

Barin appealed for "patience from consumers" since the ERC would rule in two months on petitions for unbundling of power rates.

Although the ERC finds the PPA collections illegal, Meralco is likely to run to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, according to Villar.

She said the process would "take a lifetime" and the consumers would be left with no recourse.

"What about the consumers? Are we going to just wait and pray to God that something will be done about this?" she asked.

Aside from the unauthorized collection of PPA, Villar questioned the components of the basic charge for Meralco consumers.

She questioned Meralco's practice of asking consumers to pay a deposit of P15,000 for the installation of a post in certain areas when the basic charge already included the cost of the transmission wires. This amounts to double charging, according to Villar. ***With a report from Ronnel Domingo***

Andaya asked to name colleagues with tainted pork

From page A1

vious scandals involving textbooks, medicines and medical kits, which resulted in the indictment of certain officials.

"What has the pork of legislators to do with these? And yet congressmen are the ones always pilloried as if graft, if at all, happens only among congressmen in the implementation of their projects," Gonzalez said.

He asked that there be a complete accounting and audit of all pork barrel projects to "find out where the anomalies lie, if any."

"Let us have an oversight committee which will be tasked with looking into all these issues and lay to rest all kinds of innuendoes and speculations at the expense of members of Congress," Gonzalez said.

Shotgun

"A shotgun blast against congressmen may be good for headlines but it is not fair and smacks of rumor mongering," he added.

The pork barrel row led to the adjournment, by mistake, of the House session yesterday.

It was in his sponsorship speech Monday night of House Bill No. 4809, the Government Procurement Reform Bill, that Andaya revealed that 20 percent of the P104 billion in the government's procurement budget was lost to corruption.

He said the private sector lost a bigger amount to corruption, placing it at about P53 billion.

Andaya said the P74 billion in combined losses of the public and private sectors was equivalent to a two-year budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways and its attached agencies.

He said the procurement of goods, supplies, materials and equipment was "perceived to be the most graft-ridden."

Andaya said collusion between government officials or employees and contractors or suppliers, lack of transparency and competition, delays in project implementation and excessive use of discretion by the members of the Bids and Awards Committees increased the cost of doing business for both the government and the private sector.

He said the "situation should not be countenanced" by Congress.

Social cancer

He said there was a need for a legislative solution "lest graft and corruption in the country reaches hemorrhagic proportions or worse, develops into a social cancer that can no longer he cured."

He said HB 4421 was a fiscal discipline, savings generation and reform bill rolled into one.

In another sponsorship speech, Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella said the bill was the answer to rampant graft and corruption in government.

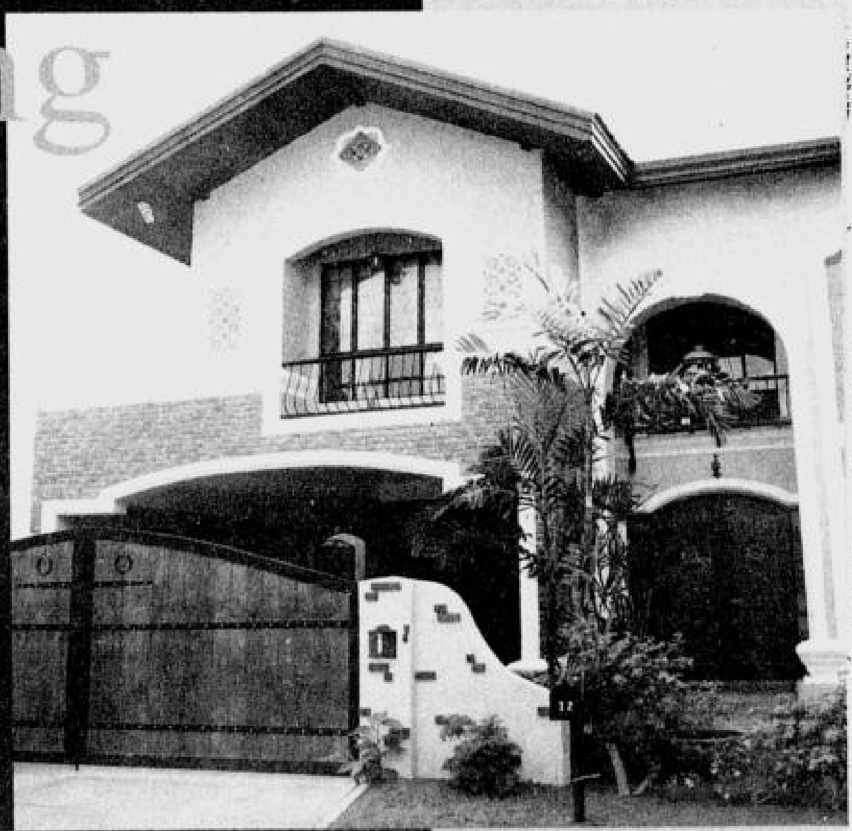
Fuentebella said the bill demanded high standards for the goods and services procured by government through the requirement of warranty and performance guarantees.

The bill has an "anti-lemon provision" that compels contractors or suppliers to repair defective products at no additional cost to government.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, Andaya and Rep. Charlie Cojuangco principally authored the bill.

Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr. also delivered a privileged speech not to praise the bill but to denounce De Venecia's order last week for each House member to donate P5 million of his or her public works pork barrel for an anti-El Niño fund.

Syjuco said that the move was a mere publicity gimmick and that he had not given his consent to the proposal. He said his constituents in Iloilo deserved the use of the funds for their projects.



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BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs Conference Finals – LA at Sacramento, Game 5 at 9 a.m. (r – 9:30 p.m.) on ESPN

2002 ABC Champions Cup, Preliminary Round at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: 2002 French Open beginning at 5 p.m. on Sky Cable and Home Cable 29

EASTERN FINALS

Nets edge Celtics, 94-92, tie series

BOSTON—Jason Kidd led the Nets with 19 points, nine rebounds and nine assists Monday as New Jersey beat the Boston Celtics, 94-92, to even the Eastern Conference finals at two games each.

Kidd ran over to the fans sitting across from the New Jersey bench and held up two fingers on each hand to signify where the series stood at 2-2.

"I was tired of being humble," Kidd explained. "This is now a series. It's a step where we're probably getting tired of each other, and so be it."

There was no hangover from Game 3 for the Nets, but there might be one for Boston's Paul Pierce after what happened at the end of Game 4.

New Jersey gave up a few big leads, but at least the Nets didn't blow the biggest shot of the game. That unkind distinction belonged to Pierce, who missed the first of two foul shots with 1.1 seconds left and the Celtics trailing by two points. Pierce missed the second intentionally, and Tony Battie couldn't convert the putback.

The Nets regained the homecourt advantage by barely coming out ahead in the closest game thus far in this best-of-seven series.

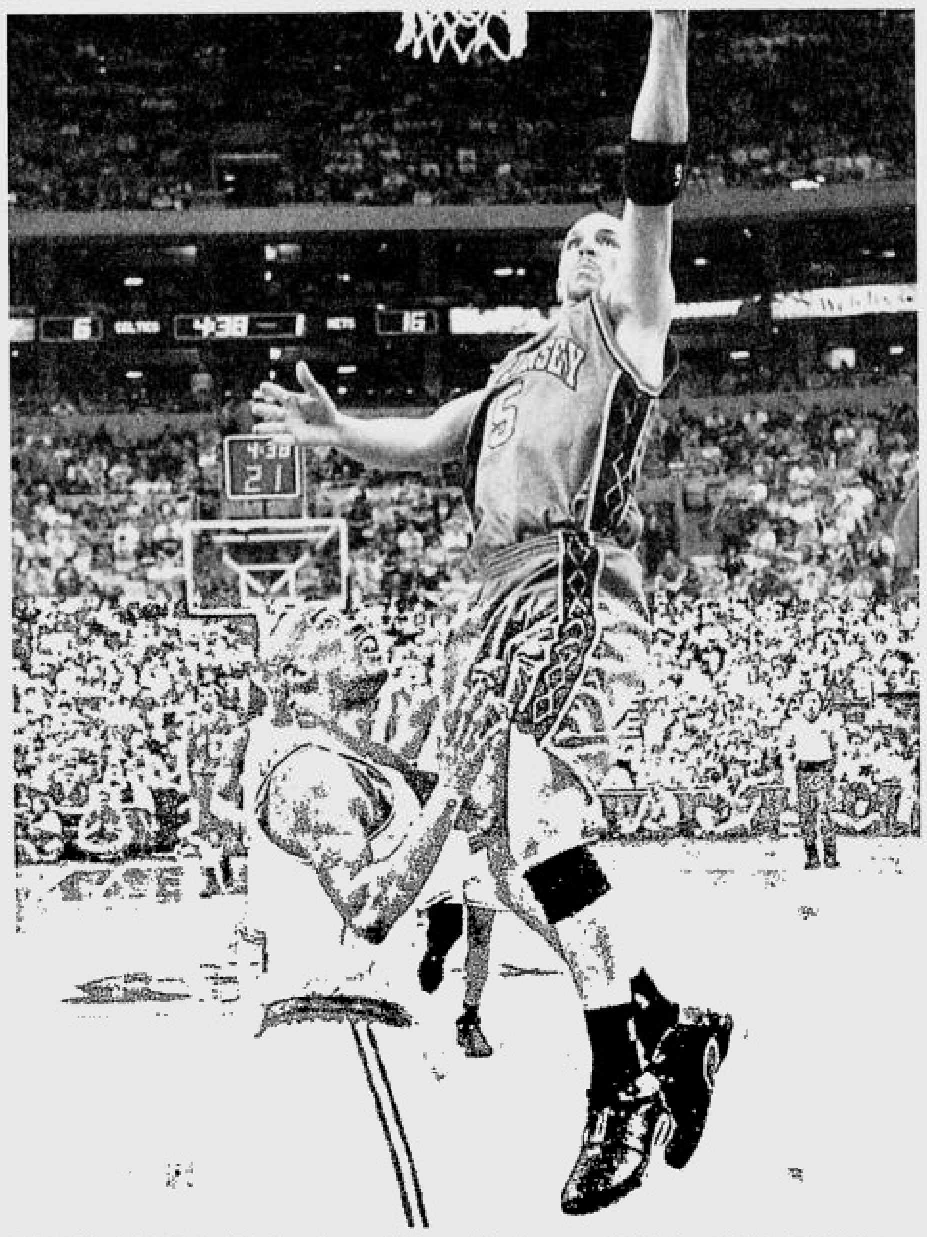
Near triple-double

Kidd nearly gained his third triple-double of the series. But none of Kidd's stats were as important as the three charges he drew in the fourth quarter, frustrating Boston's bids for a comeback each time.

His antics at the end seemed to be in response to a crowd that booed him every time he touched the ball and briefly chanted "wife-beater" - a reference to his Jan. 2001 arrest for striking his wife. The charges were dropped when Kidd underwent anger counseling and paid a fine.

"You try to win with grace and dignity," said Kidd, who took umbrage with people in Boston making too much of New Jersey's blown 21-point lead in the fourth quarter of Game 3.

"The biggest thing is they don't like to lose up here, and unfortunately sometimes you have to tip your hat to a team that comes into a building - especially when we were supposed to be on Route 93 going back home because we weren't even supposed to be in this series. The series was over," Kidd said. *AP*



JASON Kidd (right) of the New Jersey Nets goes for a lay-up against Kenny Anderson of the Boston Celtics during Game 3 of their NBA Eastern Conference Finals May 25. AFP

Italy-bound RP dribblers leave

By June Navarro

THE RP basketball team made up of PBA superstars brings its act in Europe when the Nationals leave for Milan, Italy today, to play a series of tuneup games in preparation for the Asian Games.

National team headcoach Jong Uichico and his army are scheduled to play a one-game exhibition against the Italian team on June 2.

A day later, the Nationals, led by Fil-foreign cagers like Asi Taulava and Eric Menk, will test their spunk in the Italy Invitational basketball meet set June 3-5.

The National team, heavily supported by the PBA, will be ranged against Ukraine, Latvia and the host nation in a single-round tournament format.

Joining Taulava and Menk in the fight against the Europeans are Kenneth Duremdes, Olsen Racela, Dennis Espino, Rudy Hatfield, Dondon Hontiveros, Mick Pennisi, Danny Seigle, Chris Jackson, Jeffrey Cariaso and Boyet Fernandez.

Noy Castillo, who sat out for almost a year due to a foot injury, is expected to spring back into action. Danny Ildefonso and Andy Seigle will remain at the sidelines while nursing various injuries.

Viva-Vintage will air the games from June 11-15 over IBC-13.

"We deemed it best to play in Italy since the schedule will not be in conflict with the calendar of the PBA Commissioner's Cup," said PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

The import-flavored Commissioner's Cup kicks off on June 16. The Nationals will use the second conference of the PBA as part of their final preparations in time for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea in September.

Selecta, which bankrolled half of the national training pool during the recently concluded PBA Governors Cup, will be spending no less than P1.5 million for the campaign of the national team in the Commissioner's Cup.

The Commissioner's Cup could be the Nationals' final stop before embarking on the Asiad sojourn as Bernardino had said that a stint in the Jones Cup next month in Taiwan is no longer possible.

"It might do us more harm than good. We might get scouted if we play in the Jones Cup," said Bernardino.

Ateneo vs Kutitap; Shark fights for life

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco vs Kutitap
5 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Shark Energy Drink

By Dennis U. Eroa

FRONTRUNNER Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation collides with dangerous Kutitap even as Shark Energy Drink tries to stay alive when it battles ICTSI-La Salle today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

An added attraction is the battle of coaching strategies between Ateneo mentor Joel Banal and his younger brother and Kutitap coach Koy. Joel won their initial encounter in the eliminations on May 17 at the Pasig Sports Center, 67-66.

The Ateneo(10-3)-Kutitap (8-5) tussle is set at 3 p.m. ICTSI-La Salle, rejuvenated by the return of ace playmaker Mike Cortez, meets skidding Shark Energy Drink at 5 p.m.

Shark, loser of its last three games, needs to sweep its remaining five outings in order to remain in contention for a finals berth. A victory by ICTSI-La Salle will enable the Green Archers to keep the Blue Eagles within their sight.

"Our strength lies in the fact that my players are following the system which I like them to learn,'" said the older Banal.

Big men Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez are getting support from the likes of Celino Cruz, Magnum Membrere and Larry Fonacier.

With the six-foot-flat Cortez making the big plays, the Green Archers are picked to prevail over the Energy Drink Kings, who are playing without gusto since the start of the double-round robin semifinals.

Known for his crossover moves and daring penetrations, Cortez is also making his teammates feel confident with his timely passes. Mark Magsumbol, Bernson Franco and Chico Lanete are lifting the Archers offensively. Francis Zamora and Dominic Uy have also conspired to give the Archers the needed muscle in the shaded lane.

Torre puts up chess school

TORRE

TO PURSUE its objective of propagating chess in schools, the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. (Acca) has linked up with Grandmaster Eugene Torre to form the Grandmaster Eugenio Torre Chess Institute (Getci).

The Institute will set a precedent for the introduction of chess programs throughout the country's elementary and high schools and has lined up many activities for the school year.

Under the Getci program, organized in partnership with the Acca and sponsored by Belgosa Media Systems, chess clubs will be set up, clinics, workshops and tournaments will be held in schools to stir interest among schoolchildren. Simultaneous exhibitions will also be staged in elementary and secondary schools all over the countryand a scholastic chess magazine will be published.

One of Getci's first seminar workshops will be conducted on June 29-30 at the Pasig City Library and Learning Resource Center. The workshop is sponsored by Wyeth and held in coordination with the Parents Association for the Gifted (PAG) and the Acca.

MBA sets sights on Jones Cup

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association (MBA) is planning to revise the schedule for its upcoming National Tournament in order to accommodate the league's participation in this year's R. William Jones Cup in Taiwan from July 13 to 24.

"The invitation extended by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) looks very enticing," said MBA business development and marketing director Ramon Tuason. "Hence, we are studying all means to fit the Jones Cup into our calendar."

The MBA's National Tournament will serve as the LBC Batangas Blades' formal defense of the title they won last year at the expense of the RCPI Negros Slashers, 3-1. The games are set to begin on June 15th with a double header in Olongapo City pitting the Osaka Pangasinan Waves against the Pampanga Stars in the opener and the Blades testing the host Olongapo Volunteers in the main game.

"Definitely, we want to send the best team possible because national pride is at stake here," Tuason further explained. "We Filipinos love basketball so much and it is only fitting that we give back to our fans who have always supported us for the last five years."

In a related matter, MBA Commissioner Joaquin C. Loyzaga was honored by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during "The Salute to The Filipino Athlete" held last May 27 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The Commissioner was honored for being part of the silver medal winning team in Men's Basketball at the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

Tams forge s'final duel with Maroons

DEFENDING senior champion Far Eastern University blasted National University, 73-54, on Saturday to arrange a semifinal showdown with University of the Philippines in the 8th Fr. Martin Cup basketball tournament at the FEU gym.

The NCAA champion San Sebastian Stags beat the Maroons, 64-54, to set up the other semifinal contest with University of Santo Tomas, 80-69, winner over Adamson University.

The knockout matches will be held at the FEU gym today with the Tams facing the Maroons at 3 p.m. and the Stags going up against the Tigers at 4:30.

Adamson's belles won the women's title Saturday by downing the Lady Tams, 60-52.

San Beda and Ateneo also hurdled their respective rivals to advance to the junior finals of the tourney supported by Pagcor. The Red Cubs blasted PCCr, 74-59, while the Eaglets ripped SSC, 81-67.

The Cubs and the Eaglets will dispute the title at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 at the FEU gym. The senior finals pitting today's winners will be held at 4:30.

Malvar hosts WNBL

MALVAR, Batangas—The Laguna Charmers and the Cebu Queens will dispute third place in the Women's National Basketball League at 4:30 p.m. today at the Malvar Municipal Gym here.

Malvar Mayor Cristeta Cuevas Reyes and Barangay Chair Melchor Hernandez have extended their full support to the game arranged by Spring Cooking Oil team manager Bert Pulido, who hails from the town.

Spring Cooking Oil, through owner Tac Padilla, and Benny Wong of Morning Star Travel & Tours are sponsoring the game. Basketball Association of the Philippines Secretary General Graham Lim has been invited to grace the game.

The WNBL championship between the Bicol Beauties and the Zamboanga Flowers will be on Sunday in Naga City, to be hosted by Mayor Jesse Robredo.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1989, Frankie Miñoza shot a 3-under-par 69 to win the Royal Johore Golf Classic in Kuala Lumpur.

Good luck

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN Bobong Velez does something, expect results. Good results, that is.

Bobong, who made the PBA's television coverage the benchmark of all basketball coverages in the land, backstopped the Italian trip of our cagers bound for the Busan Asian Games in September. The players leave today for Milan.

"We were asked to help so here I am, giving my humble self again for the interest of the country," said Bobong a day before he would board a jet in the company of the nationals and team manager Sonny Barrios.

Before this, Bobong has elected to stay in the background after surrendering his majority shares at Vintage, the small TV coverage outfit he founded in the Eighties which became a giant by the Nineties. The bad times that struck us a while back did not spare Bobong's business concerns, forcing him to retreat from a major owner to a minor investor of Viva Vintage.

Lie in the dead of night, meet the light of day with a new resolve to fight a new battle.

I've known Bobong for decades. He's not one to just sulk when his world seems ready to crumble.

"A friend called me up offering to arrange tuneup matches for our boys in Italy," said Bobong. "I immediately grabbed the opportunity. Our team badly needs tough matches with an international flavor. The opposition in the Asian Games must not be taken for granted."

Bobong knows we are not flying to Italy to win games, much less a championship trophy.

"We are going there basically to expose our team to matches that have a semblance of international competition," said Bobong. "We are not after victories in the strictest sense of the word. Victory would be achieved by our mere act of joining a tournament that has attracted high-caliber teams like Latvia, Ukraine and Italy. By just having earned the chance to play them is a big boost to our preparation for the Asiad. Beating them would only be a bonus. In short, the trip is more than tuneup matches. It is an education."

Good luck, Bobong.

Good luck, fellas.

May Italy help you gain the knowledge you intend to use for our Asian Games campaign in Korea.

■

To *Pareng* Louie Visorde, Tita Victoria and Prosecutor Joven and wife Elvie Florido—all of Calauag, Quezon—thank you very much for the warm hospitality. Weekend last was a weekend worth remembering.

Santiago sweeps scooter expert, 70cc categories

CARMONA, Cavite— Ivan Santiago of Access-Plus-Malossi swept both the expert and 70cc categories, even as Mark Chua of Jenmark Racing Team made his presence felt in the 90cc/Jet 100 in the third leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Santiago, first leg double winner, outdueled perennial rivals Mark Barcial and Jolet Jao to grab top honors in the expert open category in this annual series organized by the EL Racing Tech and sponsored by Shell Advance.

The win—the second in three legs—enabled the 19-year-old campaigner from San Juan to take the lead in the overall standings and avenge a heart-breaking loss to Barcial in the second leg on April 28.

Santiago, who is best remembered for winning the Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos Cup on Feb. 10 and the fist leg on March 17, made it a double celebration when he ruled the 70cc category over John Dino Cahanding, Ritchie Abrina, Jojo Reyes and Danny Agustin.

Equally impressive was Chua, who topped the 90cc/Jet 100 class over Cahanding, Edwin Chua, Edwin Buenaventura and Albie Roldan.

A mainstay of the Tondo-based Jenmark Racing Team, Chua dominated the race from start to finish in ruling the race over his equally talented rivals.

The other third-leg winners were Edwin Mauricio (Yamaha Force 1), Irvin Ongsee (50cc all-stell), Gerry Quinones (Honda 50cc), and Manny Esguerra (50cc multibrand open/novice).

Bodybuilding tourney in the offing

THE PHILIPPINE Bodybuilding Sports Federation and the Caesar Augustus Blanco Callangan Group are planning to hold the first Metro Manila Grand Prix bodybuilding contest within the next few months. The nationwide competition will be open to all novice, amateur and professional bodybuilding athletes.

For details, call Callangan at 0919-8236019.

Palaro-bound delegates get big discount on fares

SOME 8,000 student athletes and officials will get hefty discount on land, sea and air fares when they go to Naga City for the Palarong Pambansa on June 3-10.

According to Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission, Air Philippines agreed to cut its rates by 30 percent, while Philippine Airlines, Philtranco and WG&A Super Ferry will give 20 percent discounts in keeping with their promise to support Philippine sports particularly the PSC's grassroots development program.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the Palaro's guest of honor on June 3 at the Metro Naga sports complex.

Buhain, who is now in Naga City, said delegation members need to show a certification from their respective Department of Education regional office or local government unit to avail of the discount.

"Everything is in order and from the looks of it, we are going to have a very successful Palaro this year," said Buhain in a press statement.

He said that WG&A has also pledged to donate beddings and mattresses for the use of the delegates, who will also be given insurance and additional baggage allowances by Air Philippines, WG&A and Super Ferry.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Bukidnon girl enters quarters

BUKIDNON'S Jecille Ortelano eliminated fourth seed Sarah Jane Lim, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to join top seed Bambie Zoleta of Lucena and No. 2 Jessica Agra of Colegio San Agustin in the girls' 12-under quarterfinals of the Alibor-Philta Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Ortelano will meet Bacolod's Martina Guba, who won by default over Shane Quitara.

Zoleta stamped her class over Irina Quinatadcan, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Davao's Macy Solon while Agra outlasted Trudy Amoranto, 6-3,7-6 (2), to advance against Cebuano Sally Mae Siso.

Third seed Julie Ann Jopia of Danao City blasted Karen de Dios, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Martina Rivero, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over Adrianne Martinez.

In the boys' 16-under category, fifth seed Kyle Dandan of Colegio San Agustin defeated Cebuano Julianito Jopia, 6-2, 6-2, and No. 6 Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills outplayed Jericho Agcaoili, 6-1, 6-0, to advance in the second round. Other winners were Carlo Navarro, Carlo Canlas, Perene Alina, Ralph Kevin Barte, Jarid Manduriao, Pablo Olivarez II and Anthony Rey Laplap.

Booking second-round berths in the girls' 16-under division were Michelle Panis, Anna Karissa Laplap, Jesusa Flores, Alesna Floreza, Bobbie Escueta, Ma. Angelica Ngo, Amanda Romero, Ana Ysabel Soriano, Julie Em Botor and Ara Micayabas.

RJTV features Coca-Cola netfest

THE FIRST Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships recently held at the Subic International Tennis Center will be featured in a one-hour special on RJTV 29 at 9 p.m.

RJTV 29 is Channel 61 on Skycable, 47 on Home Cable and 58 on Destiny Cable.

Highlights of the TV special sponsored by Coke, PLDT, Adidas, Prince, Chris Sports, Dunlop, Tru-flex, Wilson, Union Bank and Union Cement are the finals of the men's singles, women's singles, interclub team tennis and awarding ceremony.

Rubillar, Gamboa clash for crown

THE BATTLE for the WBC international lightflyweight championship between Juanito Rubillar and former WBA champion Joma Gamboa will be held Friday night at the Elorde Sports Center in Parañaque City.

Rubillar is defending his title for the third time.

Japanese promoter Joe Koizumi said the winner of the bout dubbed "Matira Matibay" is likely to get a crack at the WBC lightflyweight crown to be disputed by champion Yeo San Choi of Korea and Jorge Arce of Mexico on July 6.

The card is organized by the Elorde International Productions, headed by promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. Supporting the event are Philippine Charity Sweepstakes (PCSO), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), Family Rubbing Alcohol, SM Southmall – Las Piñas, SM Makati, Roberto Sporting Wear, Near Water, Lotus Garden Hotel, City Garden Suites Manila, and the Elorde Sports Center.

The event will start at 6 p.m. For details, call 825-7229.

Emil Cabrera

AFP

FRENCH OPEN
Venus Williams hits a forehand to her German opponent Bianka Lamade during a Roland-Garros French Open first round match. Williams won, 6-3, 6-3. Other first round results: Andrea Gaudenzi beat Pete Sampras, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (3); Lleyton Hewitt beat Andre Sa of Brazil, 7-5, 6-4, 7-5; Thomas Johansson of Sweden beat Franco Squillari, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-2; Gustavo Kuerten beat Ivo Heuberger, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2; Tommy Haas beat Michal Tabara, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Alex Corretja beat Bohdan Ulihrach, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1; Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui beat Jan-Michael Gambill 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Amelie Mauresmo beat Camille Pin, 6-4, 6-1; No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova beat Cara Black, 6-2, 6-3; and Russian Elena Dementieva beat Adriana Gersi, 7-5, 6-3.

NCA derby final round set tonight

THE NCA 7-Cock derby enters its final round tonight, with three crowd favorites setting the pace after scoring three straight wins late Monday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ahead of the star-studded field are Binangonan SMV of three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, Meycauayan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla and Spencer Winslet of World Slasher champion Dicky Lim.

Two entries—Combine Harvester of Boy Velez/Boy L. and R&B Farm I of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Road—are within striking distance, posting 2-1/2 points.

Ten other entries landed in the money by registering two points each in this derby hosted by Alan Tan, John Capinpin, Madlambayan brothes, Ruel Feliciano and Sons and the National Cockers Association.

120 golfers see action in Fr. Go alumni meet

THE FIRST Fr. Johnny Go Xavier Alumni Golf Cup tees off at the Tagaytay Midlands golf course on Friday.

The tournament aims to support Fr. Johnny Go's Grant-in-Aid scholarship program through a record number of 120 alumni golfers who are expected to troop to Tagaytay for the 8 a.m. shotgun start.

Corporate support for the project has been encouraging as close to P4 million in prizes awaits the golfers, including four cars from hole-in-one sponsors Ford Balintawak, Toyota Motor Philippines, Federal Land Inc., and Nissan Motor Philippines.

The event promises to be the association's most successful fundraiser ever.

All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for financially needy but academically deserving Xavier students.

Major sponsors are Enervon, Alaxan, Decolgen, Unilab, Piatco Terminal 3, Absolute Water, Belle Resources, Stanwood Industries and Xavier High School Classes of '67, '76 and '83. For other details call Aimee or Sally at the Xavier Alumni Office, 727-3329 or 726-4855.

Cook earns slot to US, British Opens

DUBLIN, Ohio—John Cook didn't win the Memorial, but he got a small consolation prize Monday –an exemption to the U.S. Open at Bethpage and the British Open at Muirfield, where he nearly won the claret jug 10 years ago.

The world ranking published Monday was the deadline for the top 50 players to receive a free pass to both Opens.

While Cook came up two shots short of victory at Muirfield Village, rounds of 65-69 on the weekend earned him a tie for fourth at the Memorial and enabled him to climb 21 spots in the ranking, to No. 42.

Nick Faldo, meanwhile, will have to rely on a special invitation from the U.S. Golf Association or go through a 36-hole qualifier next week in order to play in his 60th consecutive major, the longest active streak in golf.

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RP AMATEUR GOLF CHAMP
Jerome Delariarte (third from left) shares a light moment with his girlfriend Teri Echiverri after winning the Philippine Amateur Golf championship at Eagle Ridge last weekend. They are with (from left) Jose Feliciano (managing director of WWWExpress), Mike Fitzpatrick (DHL country manager) and Benny Gopez (NGAP secretary general). WWWExpress and DHL bankrolled the event organized by the NGAP and supported by Mitsubishi Motors.

Woods forgets shoes

TORONTO—Tiger Woods gets paid millions of dollars to remind people, "don't leave home without it."

But the world's best golfer sheepishly admitted Monday he had forgotten his golf shoes as he teed it up at a demonstration event to launch the new American Express credit card that uses that famous pitch and now bears his image.

"No golf shoes," said Woods, instantly forgiven by 5,000 loyal fans who had made the early morning trek to Toronto's Centre Island to watch their idol hit a few balls. "I forgot them in my room. *Reuters*

TV coverage

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

RUMORS are circulating that the Philippine Basketball Association is switching television channels next year (from IBC 13 to ABS-CBN 2?) because of the reported failure of its longtime TV partner to pay its long standing obligations.

And this non-payment by the TV outfit to the pro league has been cited as the reason why the PBA is unable to pay in full the 3 percent share of the Games and Amusements Board's income from the radio and television rights starting from June to December 1999. I also learned that the PBA has written the GAB recently, seeking an extension to settle its debt until the year 2004! Can you beat that? The PBA is supposed to be awash with cash, yet it seems it is now falling on hard times.

The PBA could be facing a possible government suit if it fails to pay the GAB its lawful share, according to sources in the GAB now headed by Eduardo Villanueva. Recall that during the time of former GAB chair Dominador Cepeda Jr., a memorandum of the late lawyer Eduardo Velasco, then legal division head, said, "There appears to be no serious efforts on the part of the PBA to find ways and means to settle this account, or at least a substantial part thereof" and recommended that "the matter be endorsed to the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) for appropriate action."

At that time, the GAB sought the intervention of the Solicitor General for appropriate action because of the failure of the PBA to submit GAB-required documents necessary to its audit examination of PBA accounts. A committee composed of Lerina Braga, Anna Maria Fernandez and Aurora Masangcay was also formed to examine the books of accounts to confirm the veracity of the PBA claim that its non-payment of the GAB's 3 percent radio-TV share was due to the failure of its radio/TV arm to pay its franchise fee in the amount of P162 million. Is this the reason why the PBA is switching TV channels?

Dodgers beat Brewers, 5-3

LOS ANGELES—Shawn Green continued his impressive hitting streak with another home run, his 10th in seven games, as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 in National league action on Monday.

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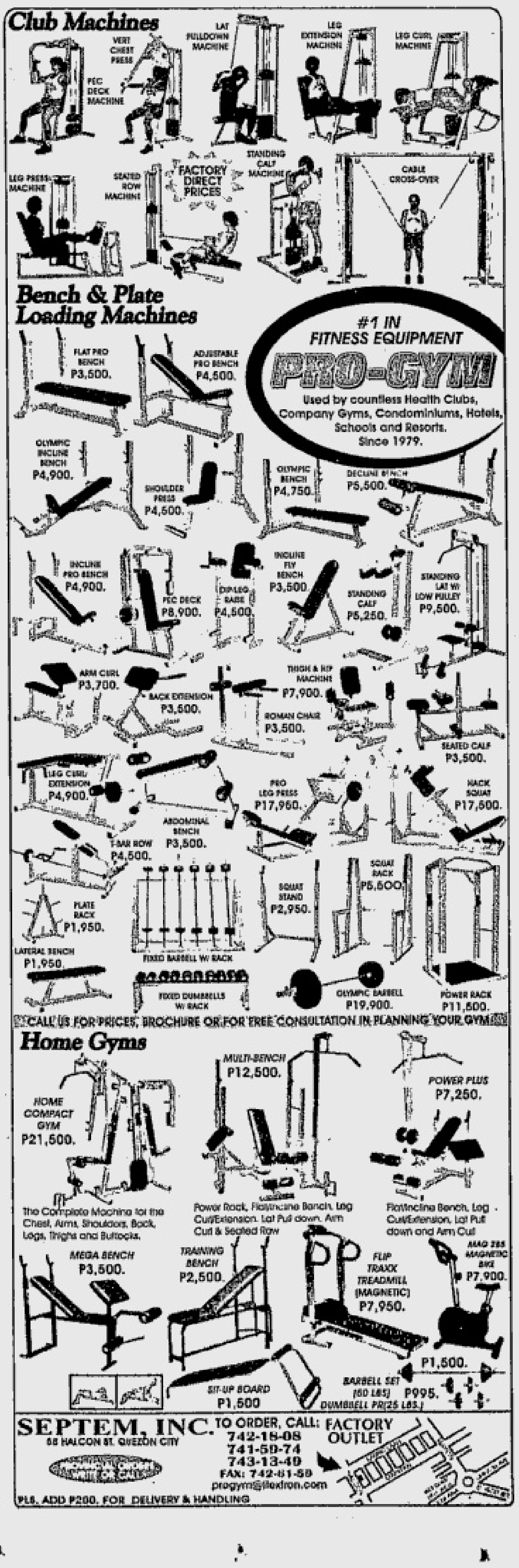

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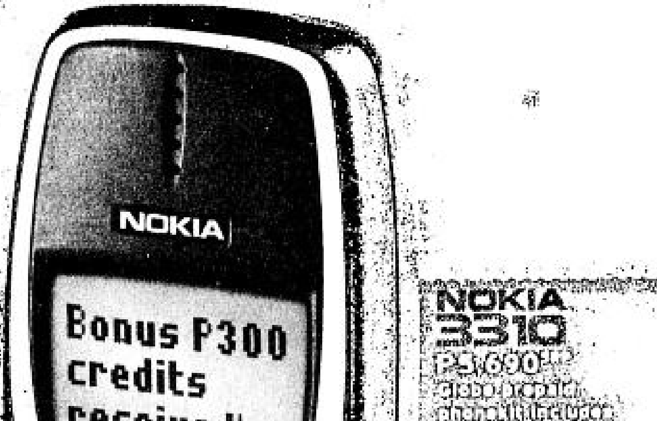

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

PAL union joins protest vs Terminal 3 /A26
Group suspected in cop's slay in daring Edsa bus rob /A26

New cops for school opening /A26

3 youths hunted for doc's killing

By Jerome Aning

ONE of three young men wrestled him to the ground and hit him with a hard object, but Edmundo Dayag was able to get up and run. They also tried to shoot him, but Dayag said he was able to take cover in the dark.

Dayag, a Bureau of Internal Revenue consultant, survived to tell investigators what he saw and heard when his friend Dr. Franklin Avellaneda was killed last May 11 at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday said it is hunting for three members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity suspected of killing Avellaneda, of St. Luke's Medical Center.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Kissinger Kraft, of Calauan, Laguna; Mark Alba, of San Pedro, Laguna; and Antonio Rivera Jr., of Putatan, Muntinlupa City. All are 20 years old, Wycoco said.

Alba and Rivera are sociology students at the UPLB while Kraft is a dropout, according to Wycoco.

Investigators said Avellaneda and Dayag had quarreled with the three young men on May 11.

Avellaneda had fetched Kraft, Alba and Rivera for a meeting at the Apec Center at the UPLB compound, where they drank some bottles of beer, investigators said.

Dayag said later he saw Avellaneda pleading and Alba and Rivera twisting the doctor's arms and poking a knife at him.

Dayag said it was Kraft who wrestled him to the ground and hit him with a hard object. He said he was able to stand up and run.

He said one of the three men fired at him but he was able to hide in the dark. He was crawling on the ground when he heard several gunshots, Dayag said.

3 YOUTHS/ A26

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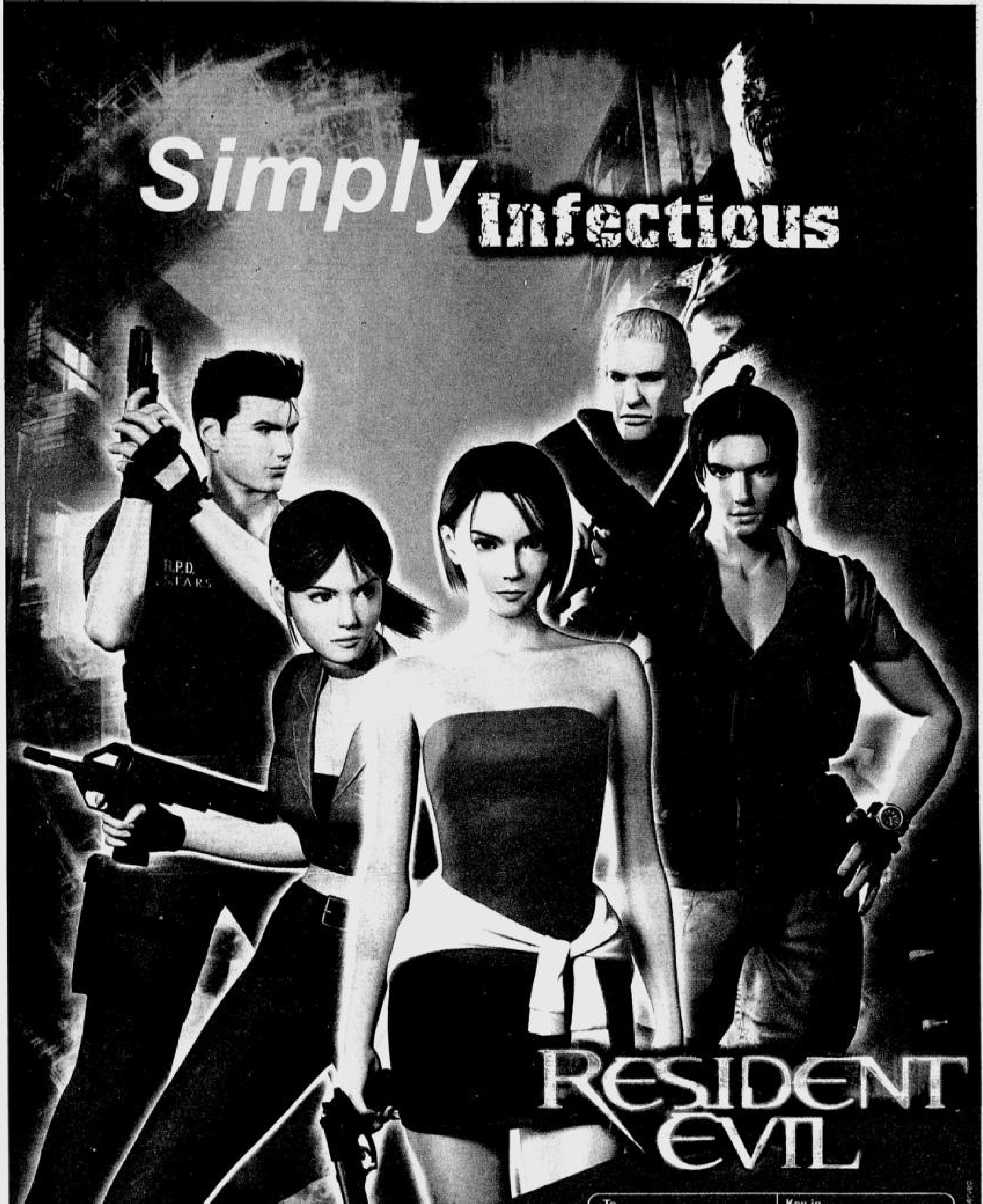

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CALTEX What Drives You

Group suspected in cop's slay in daring Edsa bus rob

POLICE Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Monday vowed to run after holdup men who prey on passengers of buses on Edsa.

Jaraza was referring to the series of robberies in passenger buses, the latest of which happened on Saturday where a policeman was killed.

He said police have gathered witnesses who will help them identity the men who killed PO1 Epifanio Leonardo Torres.

Torres, a member of the criminal investigation unit, was shot dead by one of eight robbers when he tried to fight off the suspects who held up more than 70 passengers of a Genesis Transpo Corp. bus.

Jaraza said investigators are focusing on a single robbery gang and have compiled sketches of some of the suspects. But he refused to go into detail.

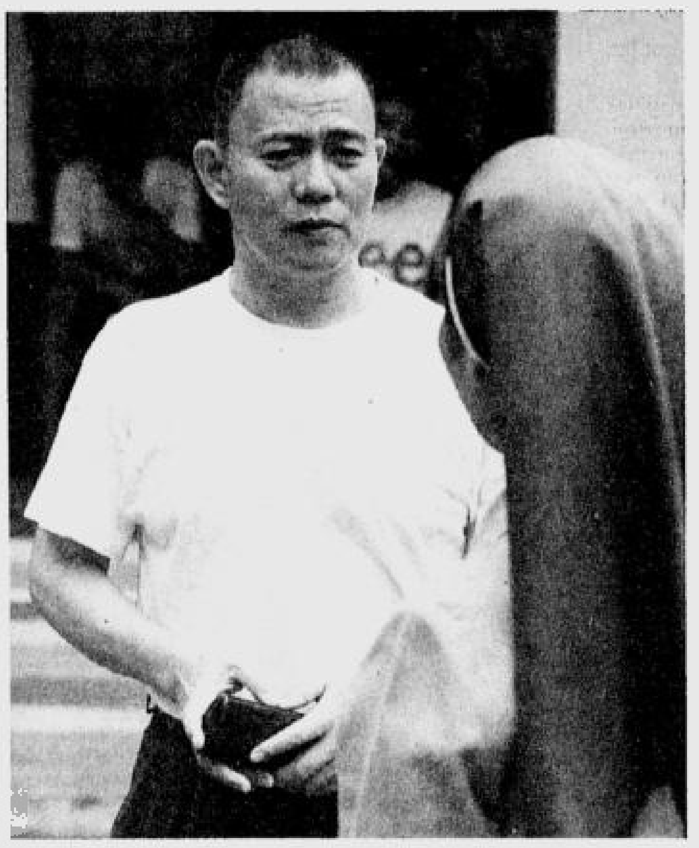
Jaraza urged bus owners to check the bags of their passengers, explaining that this is for their own safety.

"We are also conducting preventive patrols and intensifying police visibility on the streets to prevent such instances from happening again," Jaraza said.

Tina Santos

Reyes to leave jail today

By Tina Santos and Armand N. Nocum



REYES

THE JAIL cell is very hot and he has to share it with at least 20 other inmates, but "running priest" Robert Reyes said his detention at the Quezon City jail has been "very enriching."

"The heat is really unbearable," Reyes said from his cell yesterday after his first night in jail. "Our cell is so enclosed, there is no ventilation, no exhaust. I have an electric fan which blows hot air combined with nicotine, because most of them (inmates) smoke."

Reyes on Monday morning turned himself in to the authorities to face the P1-million libel lawsuit that Cagayan Rep. Juan Ponce "Jackie" Enrile had filed against him.

Reyes is expected to get out of jail today after posting a P10,000 bail which he said was donated by the parishioners of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice on the University of the Philippines campus where he is the parish priest.

"This is a period of grace, purification and trial for the Catholic Church," Monsignor Hernando Coronel, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said yesterday as he prepared to visit Reyes in jail.

"I pray that this be resolved expeditiously," Coronel added.

He said the archdiocese of Manila, where Reyes belongs, is likely to give Reyes legal support.

Reyes, whom he called "a priest and a friend," also has the support of the CBCP, he said.

In visiting Reyes, Coronel said he was bringing *siopao* and two books: "A Man for All Seasons" and "With New Eyes."

"A Man for All Seasons" is about English lawyer, humanist and author Sir Thomas More, who became Lord Chancellor in 1529. He was imprisoned and executed for refusing to acknowledge the supremacy of England's king over the Pope.

On talk that Reyes opted to be jailed, instead of posting bail, so he could gain media mileage, Coronel said: "Fr. Robert Reyes is involved in worthy causes and in these causes, he needs the media."

Reyes, the 21st inmate in the Quezon City jail cell called Barangay Roxas, said he wasn't able to sleep Monday night in jail. He said he talked with his cell mates until the wee hours.

He shared the cell with 20 other inmates, including another priest detained for rape charges and five UP students charged with the murder of frat member Dennis Venturina.

Early yesterday morning, Reyes said Mass, which was attended by the more than 1,800 inmates in the jail as well as by his UP parishioners.

"I would be very willing to stay here longer," he said. "I promise to come back. I'll continue my apostolate here. This is a very enriching experience. Two days is not enough for me to understand the world in here. For me this is the real world. These are the real people.

"They may be full of tattoos but they are not hiding anything, they let you see their real character, unlike outside which is full of pretentions."

Reyes said his mother visited him Monday night. "She was here but she never uttered a word," he said. "She was just looking at me, crying. I know she was taking it heavily. As much as I want to spare my parents, especially at this time, I really needed to face up to all of these."

Reyes was also visited by priests from San Carlos Seminary.

"I'm very overwhelmed," he said, adding that lawyers have been offering him free legal assistance. His lawyer is Aimee Mendoza.

Grenade blast hits Pangarap Village

FIVE security guards of businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta were injured when unidentified men threw a grenade at their post at the disputed Pangarap Village in Camarin, Caloocan City on Monday.

Police identified the wounded guards as Michael Moiquida, Vicente Friolo, Rowel Arsenio, John Kambal and Apolinario Agbing, all of Meshem Security Agency.

Investigators said the explosion happened about midnight at Gate 1 of the Pangarap Village while the guards were on duty.

Police said the explosive was an MK-1 fragmentation grenade.

The guards were part of the team tasked to demolish the houses of thousands of residents of Pangarap Village last month.

Tina Santos

METROBRIEFS

Shot in 'scuffle'

SUSPECTED snatcher Roland Albareda, 35, was killed when he tried to resist arresting officer PO1 Ferdinand Cajipe in Binondo, Manila, Monday afternoon, investigators claimed. Albareda, of Tondo, Manila, died on the way to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, said SPO1 Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District homicide section. Salazar said patrolling policemen, including PO1 Cajipe, saw Albareda snatching the necklace of a 15-year-old girl on C.M. Recto Avenue. The policemen said they cornered Albareda on Recto and Tabora Street where, instead of surrendering, he attacked Cajipe and tried to grab the lawman's 9-mm firearm. During the scuffle, the gun went off and hit Albareda in the head, investigators claimed. Cajipe, of the drug enforcement unit of WPD Station 11, is under investigation. *Jerome Aning*

Cop busted

SENIOR Police Officer 1 Reynaldo Beano and four others, including two teenage girls, were arrested in a drug bust in Caloocan City on Monday morning. The Caloocan police drug enforcement unit seized an undetermined amount of shabu from Beano, Modesto Breto, 58, Kyla Clemente, 25, and the two 15-year-old girls during a raid on Breto's house on Sevilla Street. The lawmen secured a warrant from Caloocan Regional Trial Court Branch 128 Judge Silvestre Bello Jr. Police said they were preparing to file drug charges against the suspects. Beano may also be dismissed from the service, police added. *Tina Santos*

Suicide lands on girl

AN UNIDENTIFIED man jumped off the fourth floor of a shopping mall in Quiapo, Manila and landed on five-year-old Pauline Ramos Monday night, police said. The man died while the girl was injured, police said. The girl was walking with her mother in the Isetann mall on Recto Avenue and Quezon Boulevard when the falling body hit her. Homicide detective Danilo Vidad described the unidentified man as about 23 years old, 5-foot-6, medium-built, fair complexioned and with short, curly hair. He was in a dirty-white shirt and blue denim shorts. Witnesses said he climbed the railing near the fourth floor elevator. Guards tried to prevent him from jumping, but he suddenly let go and fell to the ground head first, hitting Ramos on his way down. *Jerome Aning*

Caretaker robs aunt

POLICE are hot on the trail of Alvin Francisco Lacson, 28, who attempted to burn the Quezon City house of his aunt after stealing more than P1 million in jewelry and other valuables. Police said that before Edna Francisco Diamante, 52, and her husband went on vacation abroad on May 22, they asked Lacson to take care of their house on Dumaguete Street at Philam Homes in Quezon City, and to accompany their two kids and the maid. But when the couple returned yesterday afternoon, they were shocked to discover that Diamante's jewelry and valuables were missing. The maid said she saw the suspect going through the couple's things in the couple's bedroom. But the suspect, a native of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, reportedly got angry when the maid called his attention, and he tried to burn down the house before he fled. *Tina Santos*

Hacked in the neck

SUNIOLO Yulo, 20, died from a bolo thrust in the neck after he fought with the brother of his suspected killer in Valenzuela Monday night. Police said Yulo was loitering with his friends near his house in Malinta, Valenzuela about 9:30 p.m. when Onyok Tubiano, who was said to be drunk, came and started to create trouble. Witnesses said Onyok provoked Yulo into an argument so heated that Yulo went home and then returned with a knife. But Onyok's brother, Raul Tubiano, was already waiting for Yulo in a dark alley, carrying a bolo which he used to hack the victim. Police are looking for the suspect. *Tina Santos*

Slain over sleeping space

CORN vendor Benedicto C. Palconit and his two sons beat up and stabbed dead another vendor, Marciel C. Verutiao, after they fought over sleeping space in their shanty in Sampaloc, Manila. Palconit, 53, and his sons Ruel, 20, and Benedicto Jr., 19, ganged up on Verutiao, 35, and stabbed him dead outside their shanty on Geronimo Street, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Manila police. Palconit and his son Ruel are now in police custody, but Benedicto Jr. is still at large, police said. They said the four shared a drink early that evening and, before they went to sleep, the father and his sons quarreled with Verutiao over the small sleeping space. The Palconit brothers then began to beat up Verutiao, while their father repeatedly stabbed him, police said. The suspects tried to escape but barangay security officials caught two of them. *Philip Tubeza*

PAL union joins protest vs Terminal 3

By Christian V. Esguerra

AVIATION and Nayong Pilipino employees have joined forces to denounce the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, which they expect to result in a massive lay-off.

Leaders and members of the Nayong Pilipino Employees Union, the Philippine Airlines Employees Association, and the Miascor union yesterday went to Malacañang to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to reject the memorandum of agreement between theme park authorities and airport management.

Fernando Evangelista, who heads the Nayon employees, said workers were utterly disregarded in the MOA, which authorized the conversion of 8.6 hectares of the theme park into the new airport terminal's access road and additional taxiway.

"We've been sacrificed for the so-called national interest," Evangelista told the INQUIRER. "But we're also part of the national interest. How about us? How about the welfare of our families?"

The MOA signed on May 8 will pave the way for the closure of Nayong Pilipino on June 25 and the lay-off of 59 Nayon employees.

The transfer of the Nayon property to Naia and the awarding of separation benefits to Nayon employees will only take effect through an order by the President, according to the four-page memorandum.

Nayon executive director Charito Planas yesterday said the employees could no longer do anything about their displacement since the Naia 3 project is about to be completed.

"They should ask for the doable, not for the impossible," Planas said in a telephone interview.

She said the employees would receive a compensation package equivalent to their one-month salary multiplied by the total number of years they worked with Nayon.

The employees are batting for a base amount equal to two months salary. Planas had said she was working for one and a half months.

3 youths ...

From page A25

Later, he saw the three men on board Avellaneda's car, which was moving slowly, as if they were looking for him.

UP and Los Baños police found the doctor's body at the crime scene. Avellaneda had several stab and gunshot wounds, and was in handcuffs, investigators said.

His car was found in a nearby subdivision, but the P20,000 in cash that the doctor had kept under the floor mat in the car was missing, investigators said.

New cops for school opening

By Christian V. Esguerra

ABOUT 1,700 new police recruits will be deployed in key areas in Metro Manila when classes open next month, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The new recruits of the Philippine National Police will provide additional security and augment MMDA traffic personnel in congested areas such as the University Belt in Manila, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. over the weekend.

Abalos said the deployment of the rookie policemen is part of Oplan Balik-Eskwela organized by the MMDA, the PNP, and local government units in coordination with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education.

Under the program, the MMDA and the PNP will also tap the services of school guards to keep the peace and to help direct traffic even in areas outside their respective schools, according to Abalos.

In a recent news conference, Abalos warned traffic officials: "If (the) traffic (problem in the area) persists, I'm sorry but we have to divorce. Someone has to be held accountable here."

He said those from the Traffic Enforcement Group and the local government units who fail in putting the traffic in order would be sent back to their mother units.

"If he's from the MMDA, I'll tell him 'I have no use for you, here's your separation pay,'" he added.

A pure, juicy and glorious basketball Sunday

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

(COME & JOIN: Today, starting at 10 a.m., is the launching of the Metro Manila People Opposed to Warrantless Electric Rates (POWER) at the Kowloon House on West Avenue in Quezon City. "There's a need to come together to strengthen the fight against onerous and unjust power rate hikes, as well as other anomalous and monopolistic activities in the power industry," said Froyel Yaneza, deputy sec-gen of Bayan-NCR, which is spearheading the movement. They are inviting concerned groups and citizens to join.)

IT was easy to measure the crowd, but awfully hard to count the heroes.

My favorite columnist, Quinito Henson of Star, named two: Ronnie Magsanoc and Alvin Patrimonio, not necessarily in that order.

Wrote Mr. Henson: "Magsanoc, 36, and Patrimonio, 35, are supposed to be in the twilight of their careers, but they sure didn't play like it in Purefoods' 91-76 win over Alaska in the clincher of the PBA Samsung Governor's Cup Finals at the Big Dome last Sunday night."

Me, I would personally pick Patrimonio. He loomed like a beacon when he singlehandedly exchanged fire with the opponent to protect their lead in a most precarious stretch.

Heroes aplenty.

And villains, too?

At least, the losers could not point to the referees as the culprits.

That game was won by Purefoods, pre-game underdogs, purely and wholesomely.

The Tender Juicy Hotdogs worked hard early to take the lead then labored doubly hard on defense all the way to the finish.

* * *

Sorry, but Purefoods could lose one big fan after the euphoric triumph.

The villain? As reported in the INQUIRER Metro section yesterday, one Alaska fan felt bitter after he was Alaska-ed (teased) by a Purefoods supporter.

Joselito Andaya stabbed Jesus Malogan, a Purefoods fanatic from Kalayaan, Tejeros, Makati.

The victim has remained in critical condition at the Makati Medical Center.

Police said the victim had chided the suspect for continually betting on "Alaska when they always lose."

Truth is, Alaska had tried terribly hard after being run down in the early goings.

But Purefoods, very hungry for the crown, just could not be deceived or distracted on its way to the Grand Feast.

* * *

Anyway, a good majority, the so-called wise-money bettors in the fullhouse crowd, must've picked Alaska the solid favorite to go home with yet another big title.

The odds were stacked against Purefoods which was not given much of a chance to score a historic comeback after having dropped two straight matches at the start of the titular best-of-7.

But let's leave it to PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino to name his choice as championship hero.

Its name? Motivation, Bernardino explained.

You see, Purefoods was not among the top seeds, maybe it was ranked seventh or sixth at best before the tournament opened.

How it roared all the way to the top, after having had to beat mighty Red Bull twice in a knockout session, was the result of a singular factor.

And that—motivation—was strongly personified by no one else but Alvin Patrimonio, Bernardino said.

Other than motivation, you can call the triumph a result of emotional spirit, Bernardino added.

Patrimonio may be leaving the pro scene before his contract expires, and the Captain, Bernardino said, provided a perfect punctuation to his colorful career with that gold of a game on Sunday.

Alvin again cried during the award ceremonies.

* * *

By the way, it was a big, big house that yours-or-mine game on Sunday had filled with roaring fans.

Bernardino said that, by a plain count, no less than 18,000 spectators had come rushing to the Big Dome for the Purefoods-Alaska title match.

Let's just hope and pray the remaining conferences end this way, Bernardino swooned.

Pinch-hit coach Ryan Gregorio, looking like an altar boy who had been pushed in the middle of a street battle, said the championship was the product of a miracle.

This only proves that there's a God above watching, Gregorio said.

With its glorious immensity, that golden evening for Purefoods, needless to say, will be installed among the rare but most memorable title triumphs in the PBA.

Before that joyful Sunday at the Big Dome, there was the Grand Slam win by Danny Floro's Crispa Redmanizers, who had to roar back from a 0-2 deficit in a best-of-5 classic against the Toyota Tamaraws in 1976.

Not to be forgotten, of course, was the "longest 16 seconds," the unbelievable come-from-behind magic authored by Tommy Manotoc's U-Tex Wranglers (hopelessly down by four points) against Toyota in the summer of 1980.

Before last Sunday, there was also that unbelievable Rudy Distrito dangling shot that gave Ginebra, which had been buried 3-1 in the series, the 1991 PBA First Conference title at the expense of Shell.

As one chronicler noted, these were the epics that cemented the PBA's romance with the masses.

A more passionate Rannie returns as singer-magician

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINGER **Rannie Raymundo** has no regrets about his five years of self-imposed hiatus. He had opted to stay out of the limelight when bands started to dominate the local music scene and revivals became the recording trend.

"The hiatus was worth it," Rannie says. "I was able to preserve my identity. Even if I'm not on top of the heap, I'm still me, still different and unadulterated."

He laments that Original Pilipino Music (OPM) has lost its identity and simply became a passing trend. Singers recorded Filipino translations of foreign hits. Everyone was into revivals. Jukebox hits also filled the airlanes.

"It was as if the public didn't care anymore if the music was good or bad," Rannie maintains. "What happened to OPM? I love it so much. Gone were the days when, even when you heard just eight notes on the radio, you could tell at once it was a Hotdog tune or a song by the Apo, **Basil Valdez, Nonoy Zuñiga** or **Ric Segreto**. I became so idealistic that I decided to give up and forget everything about my career."

Instead of moping and resorting to sourgrapes, Rannie simply left the music scene.

"I asked myself, 'Do I want to make more money or do I want to be remembered for my distinct identity?' I chose the latter. I stopped performing and recording for more than four years."

It was a learning experience. "I learned how the industry really works," he says. "There's a system and I learned how to live with that system. More importantly, I learned how to be myself and enjoy what I'm doing. I was happy with what I did in the past. I don't want to impress anymore. I just want to share my music."

Rannie had long proven his expertise as a performer. During his earlier days at the now-defunct Cosmo Bar along Annapolis Street in Greenhills, "I was already doing unplugged," he recalls.

Long before **Aiza Seguerra** clinched a multi-platinum record with her acoustic hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon," Rannie had done two all-acoustic albums, his self-titled debut and "All the Right Grooves."

Before Mulatto pioneered the retro explosion, he had been singing '70s tunes.

"What they will do five years from now, I did three years ago," he says.

Rannie had to struggle to get his music played on the radio.

"I experienced having my demo taped thrown on the floor in front of me," he shares. "When I asked why, the record executive told me, 'You have a different sound.' I took that as a compliment and I wasn't offended."

Vince St. Price of 99.5 RT made it possible for Rannie's original composition, "Hanggang Kailan," to be heard on the radio. "I simply told him to play it, no strings attached," Rannie says. "After a few days, they received requests. Then the song became No. 18 on the RT countdown, then went up to No. 2. When I gave them another song, it became No. 4. After that, OctoArts signed me up."

Rannie has reinvented himself and he has never been more passionate in performing as he is now.

"I love performing now a hundred times more than before," says Rannie, who doesn't only sing and write songs but also plays musical instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums, flute and percussion.

"I don't just sing in a one-and-a-half hour gig. I also talk to the audience more."

In some of his shows, Rannie also performs magic tricks that he learned as a member of the Magic Club. He recently amused the audience in a show at the Alegria Lounge.

"There's an enormous amount of magic up my sleeves," Rannie says. "One lifetime is not enough to share what I still want to do. I don't know what I'll do next and no system can stop me from doing that. I know in the end the good stuff will prevail."

The Magic Club meets regularly every Wednesday night at Pepeton's near National Bookstore and Magnatech Studio in Panay Avenue

A MORE/A29

RAYMUNDO. Nothing can stop him

Kyla sings at Virgin Café

KYLA

R&B princess Kyla takes centerstage on Friday, May 31 at Virgin Café Tomas Morato.

Kyla, who was awarded as MTV's most promising female recording artist, will perform her hits like "Bring It On," "Hanggang Ngayon" and a lot more.

On Saturday, June 1, rapper-comedian Andrew E. performs his latest hits like "Banyo Queen," "Porno Daw" and "L na L" also at Virgin Café.

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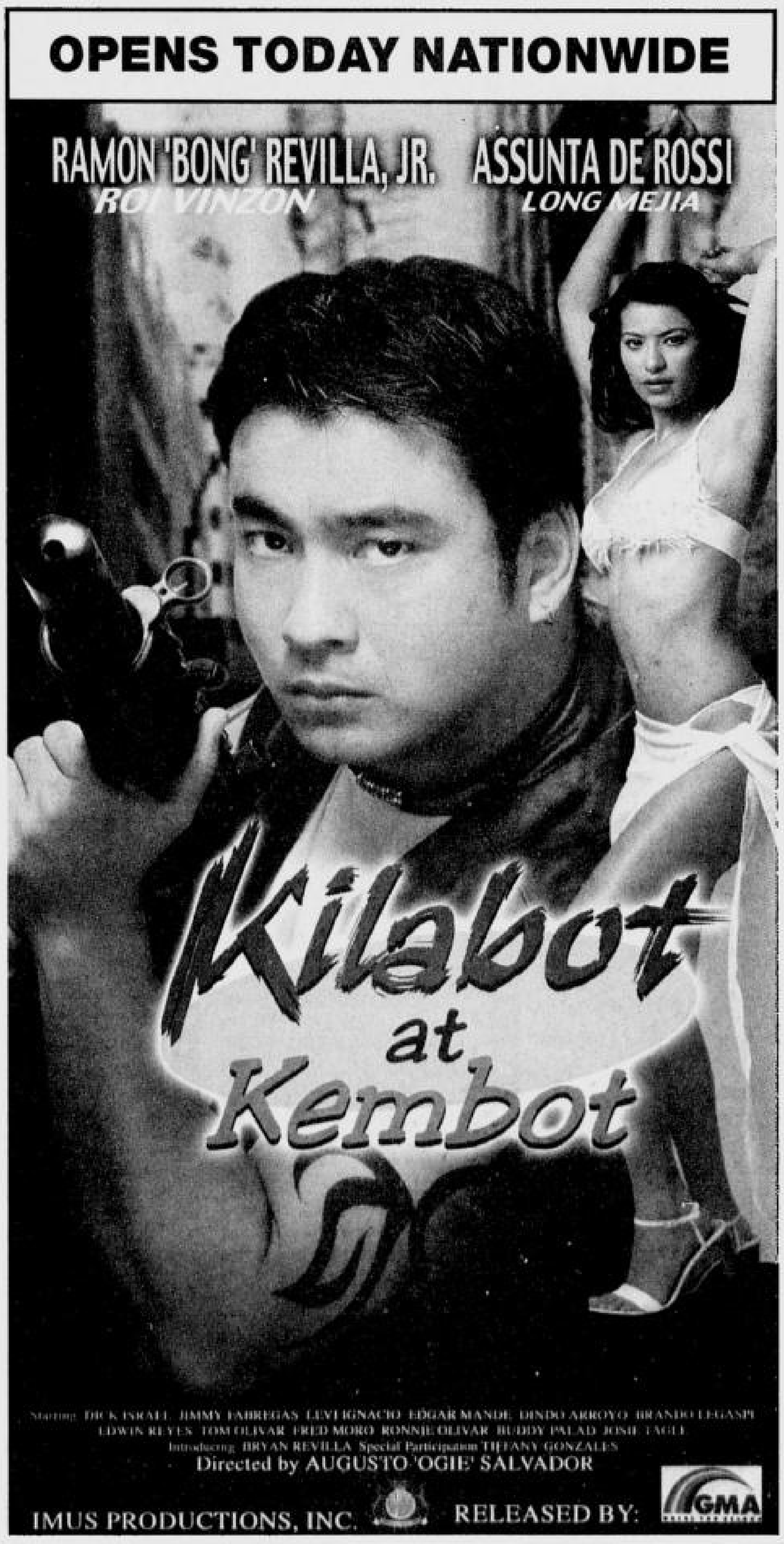

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3	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
4	STAR WARS
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	JIHAD WARRIOR
7	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
8	IN THE BEDROOM
9	KLABOT AT KEMBOT
10	SPIDERMAN
11	AKALA MO
12	BENEATH LOCHNESS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	SPIDEMAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	AKALA MO
5	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	STAR WARS
8	PANIC ROOM
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	PANIC ROOM
5	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
6	AKALA MO
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS
9	PAGSALUHAN
10	JIHAD WARRIOR

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	SPIDER MAN
2	SNOW DOGS
3	K-PAX
4	THE DEEP END
5	AKALA MO
6	JASON-X
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	THE DEEP END
2	CLOSED
3	AKALA MO
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	IAM SAM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	STAR WARS
2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
3	SPIDERMAN
4	AKALA MO
5	BENEATH LOCHNESS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	PANIC ROOM
2	STAR WARS
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	RESIDENT EVIL

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	AKALA MO

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SHOWTIME
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	STAR WARS
4	7 DAYS TO LIVEKILABOT
5	AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PANIC ROOM

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 PANIC ROOM	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	1 STAR WARS 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 40 DAYS, 40 NIGHTS	2 40 DAYS, 40 NIGHTS	2 PANIC ROOM 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30	3 PANIC ROOM	3 JIHAD WARRIOR	3 PANIC ROOM
4 JIHAD WARRIOR	4 IN THE BEDROOM	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 P.M.-May 31/ June 1	4 40 DAYS, 40 NIGHTS	4 DEATH SMOOCHY
	5 SPIDERMAN		5 SOON TO OPEN	5 40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
	6 RESIDENT EVIL			
	7 JIHAD WARRIOR			

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
2 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	STAR WARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PANIC ROOM
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	40 DAYS...
8	AKALA MO
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	IN THE BEDROOM

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	AKALA MO
2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	PAGSALUHAN
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	40 DAYS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AKALA MO
2	SPIDERMAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
A	RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	AKALA MO
2	STAR WARS
3	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	
3	
4	PAGSALUHAN
5	40 DAYS...
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8 (SDDS)	PANIC ROOM
9 (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KILABOT AT ...

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
5	LIGAYA, PANTASTA...
6 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8	AKALA KO
9	PAGSALUHAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	PAGSALUIHAN
5 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
6	PANIC ROOM
7 (DOLBY)	KILABOT AT ...
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	KILABOT AT ...
2	PANIC ROOM
3 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
4	PAGSALUHAN
5 (SDDS)	JIHAD WARRIOR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	KILABOT AT KEMBOT PAGSALUHAN NATIN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
3	RESERVE
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	LIGAYA, PANTASTA...

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	STAR WARS
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS)	AKALA MO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS)	40 DAYS
3 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
4	DEATH TO...

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DOLBY)	40 DAYS...
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	AKALA MO
2	KILABOT AT ...
3 (DOLBY)	BLADE- 2
4 (DTS)	STAR WARS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
3	PAGSALUHAN
4 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	40 DAYS...
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS)	DEATH TO SMOCHY
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	AKALA MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
3	AKALA MO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
3	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	STARS WARS
2	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
3	BUKANG BIBIG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS)	STAR WARS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	AKALA KO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DEEP END
2	SPIDERMAN
3	STAR WARS
4	AKALA KO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	JASON-X
2	AKALA MO
3 (DTS)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	STAR WARS 2
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	PANIC ROOM
6	STAR WARS 2
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	SPIDERMAN
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SPIDERMAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	PANIC ROOM
7	RESIDENT EVIL

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	PANIC ROOM
5	SPIDERMAN
6	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	STAR WARS 2
2	AKALA MO
3	PANIC ROOM
4	SPIDERMAN
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
7	JIHAD WARRIOR
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	STAR WARS
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	KLABOT AT KEMBOT
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SHOWTIME
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	DEEP END
5	SPIDERMAN
6	DEVIL MAN

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	STAR WARS 2
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	IAM SAM
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5	DEEP END
6	SPIDERMAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270

1	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2	SPIDERMAN
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

Late Night Screening

STAR WARS
EPISODE II
on
May 24 & 25, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

A more passionate Rannie

From page A27

Quezon City.

"Sometimes when I perform magic in my shows, I hear stupid or cruel remarks, but I don't mind," Rannie says. "They talk either out of ignorance or envy. I want to help elevate the plight of magicians. They're not just for the carnivals or children's parties. They can also be legitimate entertainers. We want to make the Magic Club a civic-oriented club."

Rannie was only six years old when he became fascinated with magic. "I would do the silliest tricks. Whenever I traveled out of the country with my parents, I would always ask my mom to bring me to the magic shops."

It's not magic, though, that Rannie doesn't seem to age. He looks the same today as when he first entered the music scene in the late '80s.

"But when I watch my old videos, I feel old," he says. "**Patrick Garcia** and **Christopher Peralta** played my sons in an episode of 'Maalaala Mo Kaya' and they're both taller than I now. They even call me 'Tito.'"

Rannie will have a solo concert at Southern Bulls on Friday, May 31, which also happens to be the birthday of his manager, **Angie Magbanua**. He continues to perform at Southern Bulls on all Wednesdays of June.

He also has gigs out of the country: July 6 at the Spreckles Theater in San Diego with **Marco Sison**, and July 20 in Guam with **Geneva Cruz**.

His latest album, "Oras" from Viva Records, contains all-original selections.

"This is my most sincere album," he asserts. "Even my songwriting style has changed. I started using street language. Before, my goal when I wrote a song was to impress. Now, I want to inspire. You should aspire to inspire."

New board member

IN ITS May 22 stockholders meeting, the board of directors of GMA Network elected its newest member, **Felipe S. Yalong**, a seasoned finance executive in the broadcast industry.

Yalong is the network's senior vice president for the corporate services group and will also serve as acting treasurer.

Yalong is a certified public accountant by profession and has an impressive track record in finance management and audit.

Chair of the board is **Felipe L. Gozon**, with **Gilberto R. Duavit Jr.**, **Ana Teresa Gozon Abrogar**, **Laura Jimenez Westfall**, **Joel Marcelo Jimenez** and **Judith Duavit Vasquez** as members.

TV and children

From page A30

that there are too many questionable programs out there for their kids to view TV like an open window through which all sorts of sights and sounds can enter.

But they stress that it's important to balance the restriction with a lively, open-minded discussion of the shows that their kids do get to view, so that minors can be trained early on to detect what's good or bad for them in terms of TV programming.

Other observations: children are viewing too much television in relation to their other activities. This is making them sedentary and passive, rather than active and interactive, as children should be.

TV viewing also downplays or upstages other activities essential to the balanced growth of a child, like reading, conversation, sports activities, and the arts. Admittedly, TV is very attractive, entertaining and even "hypnotic" in its effect on children.

All the more reason, then, to consciously limit its influence on young people, who may be too immature to adequately "process" some of its stronger elements, like violence and sex.

'Scooby-Doo' to the rescue

THE MOVIE superhero has just gone to the dogs: "Scooby-Doo" places the comic-book figure of the cowardly yet lovable Great Dane in a live-action-setting, with Scooby joining a gang of ghost investigators on a spooky island. Despite his fears, he is able to rescue his human friends from a number of eerie predicaments.

Scooby is brought to life by digital animation, so seamlessly that he fits right into the live action. The human characters are played by the acutely antic **Rowan Atkinson** ("Mr. Bean"), **Freddie Prinze Jr.**, **Sarah Michelle Gellar**, **Linda Cardellini** and **Matthew Lillard**.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	OCEAN 11 / ALI
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
C	PAGSALUHAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS...
CINEMA-14	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-15	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-2	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

THEATRE MALL
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CINEMA 1 STAR WARS: Episode 2
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
GP
CINEMA 2 STAR WARS: Episode 2
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00
GP
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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MUSIC MUSEUM Nº1
MAY 31, 2002 RETROSPECT 9:00 PM
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the all-digital sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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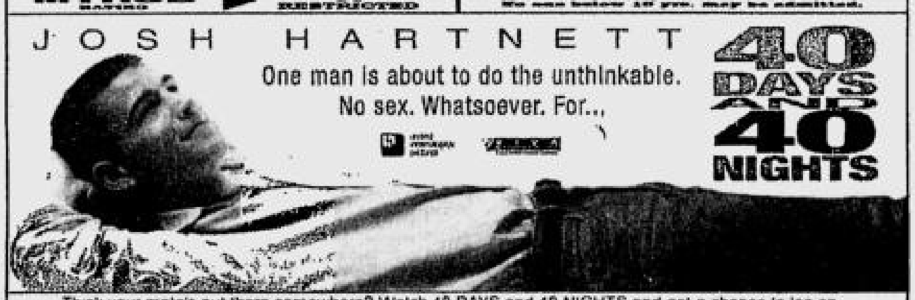
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


JOSH HARTNETT
One man is about to do the unthinkable.
No sex. Whatsoever. For...
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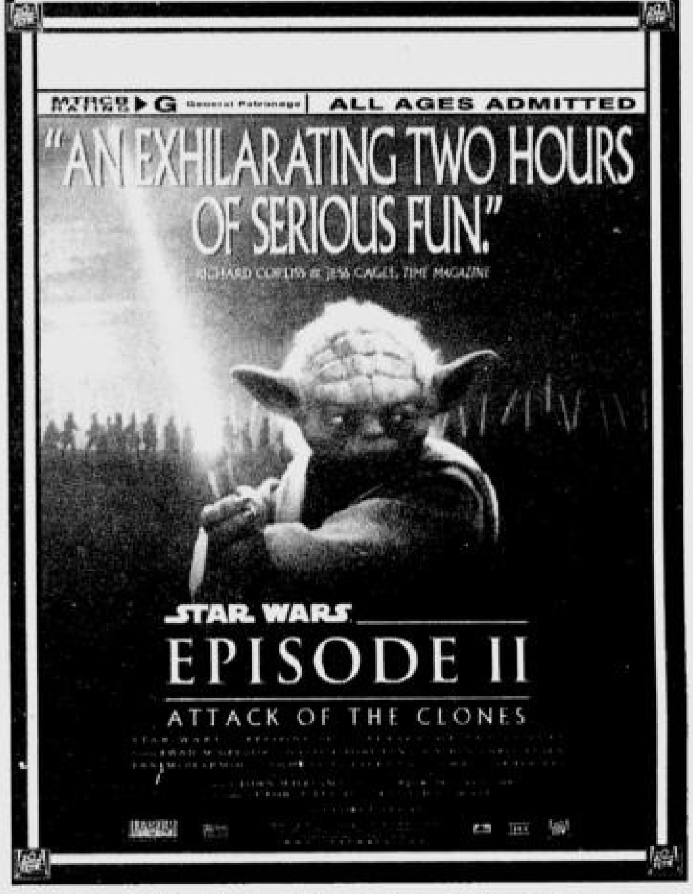
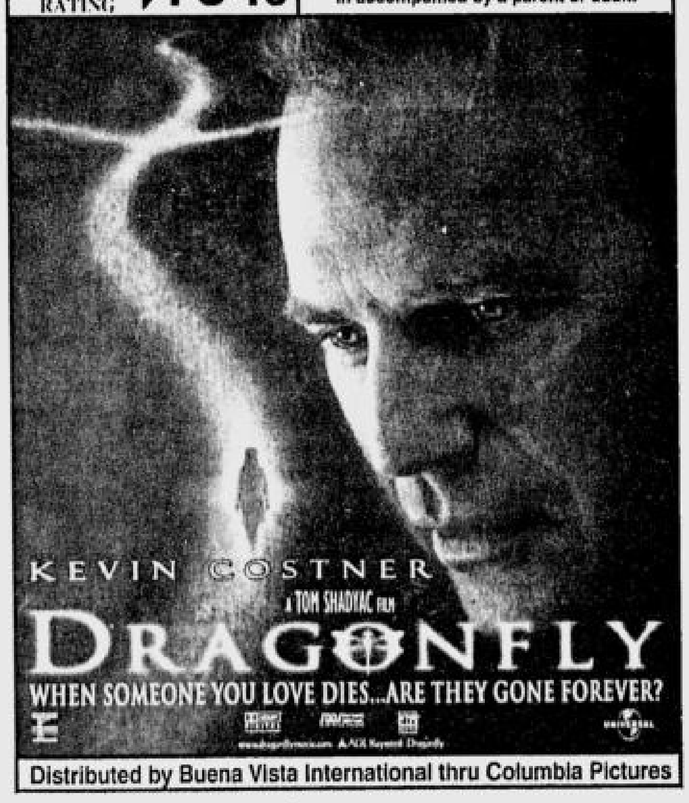
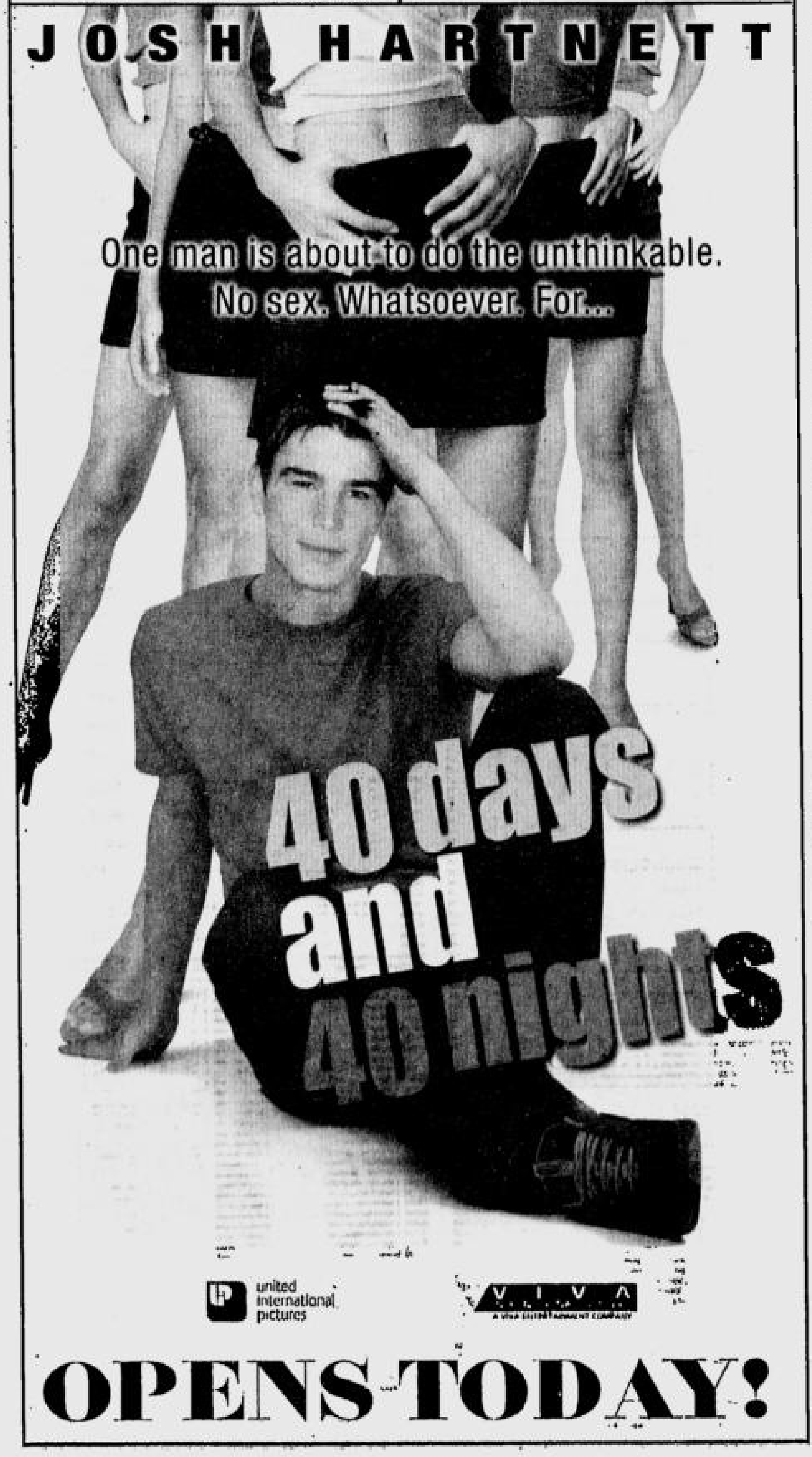

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
"AN EXHILARATING TWO HOURS OF SERIOUS FUN."
RICHARD CORLISS & JESS CAGLE, TIME MAGAZINE
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES

OPENS JUNE 5!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.


KEVIN COSTNER
A TOM SHADYAC FILM
DRAGONFLY
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES...ARE THEY GONE FOREVER?
UNIVERSAL

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


JOSH HARTNETT
One man is about to do the unthinkable.
No sex. Whatsoever. For...
40 days and 40 nights
united international pictures
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EXPLOSIVE ACTION STARTS TODAY!

THE FILM YOU ALMOST FAILED TO SEE... AS HOT AS TODAY;S HEADLINES!!
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FROM THE STREETS OF NEW YORK TO THE DOWNTOWN AND TUNNELS OF TEL AVIV, ISRAEL... VAN VAMME BATTLES AN ARMY OF MUSLIM REBELS WITH HIS FISTS, GUNS AND SWORDS!!!
HIS MISSION IS TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM AN OUTBREAK OF A HOLY WAR!
VAN DAMME
JIHAD WARRIOR
Also starring CHARLTON HESTON
SOFIA MILOS BEN CROSS
FILMS INC

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Polanski wins top Cannes prize for Holocaust survivor tale

CANNES, France—Roman Polanski was Monday basking in the glory of having won his first Palme d'Or at Cannes, carrying off the prestigious prize for "The Pianist," a tale about a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust.

His movie was late Sunday honored with the festival's top award, also known as the Golden Palm, at a glittering closing ceremony filled with celebrities.

For Polanski, a French-born Jew of Polish parents whose mother died in a Nazi concentration camp, it was both a cinematic and a very personal triumph.

"I am honored and touched to receive this prestigious prize for a film that represents Poland," Polanski said.

Polanski, 68, now lives in France after a turbulent but rewarding period in the United States, where he filmed the highly acclaimed "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown."

A Finnish film, "The Man Without a Past," won the runner-up grand prize. It also picked up the best actress prize for Kati Outinen, who played a compassionate Salvation Army officer in director Aki Kaurismaki's wry look at an amnesiac man rebuilding his life on society's fringe.

A Palestinian movie also dotted with intelligent humor, "Divine Intervention," was given the third-place Jury Prize. It presents vignettes of Palestinian life under Israeli oppression around a romance.

Polanski had presented his English-language drama during the 12-day festival as "probably the most personal film I've made."

It draws on the true story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a brilliant pianist stuck in the Warsaw ghetto, and on the childhood memories of Polanski, who went with his parents back to their native Poland two years before World War II.

Szpilman, played by US actor Adrien Brody, escapes deportation to the Nazi gas chambers by hiding in the deserted ghetto, shattered after the Polish Jews' unsuccessful uprising. He survives thanks to the help of a German officer captivated by his musical talent.

The decision by the Cannes jury—headed by US director David Lynch and including actresses Sharon Stone and Michelle Yeoh—surprised some critics who had given Polanski's film lukewarm reviews, accusing "The Pianist" of being too detached and stagey.

Many saw "The Man Without a Past" and "Divine Intervention" by Elia Suleiman, as more compelling fare.

Others had rooted for "Bowling for Columbine," a rollicking documentary by US satirist and social commentator Michael Moore about guns in America that won a new honor, a prize marking Cannes' 55th year.

The best director honor was shared between two filmmakers: South Korea's Im Kwon-Taek, 66, for his beautiful depiction of 19th century Korean artist Ohwon Jang Sang-Ub in "Chihwaseon," and Paul Thomas Anderson, the 31-year-old director of "Punch-Drunk Love," a dark comedy starring Adam Sandler.

The strong British contingent (three films) walked away with one award—the Best Screenplay prize, that went to Scotsman Paul Laverty for "Sweet Sixteen", directed by Ken Loach.

This year's Cannes reinforced the image of the reputation of the festival of being an all-embracing tribute to cinema, but where big Hollywood releases and stars supply the glamour along the beachfront while arty films from around the world shake, bore or surprise audiences inside the theatres.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson, Elizabeth Taylor, Elton John and Pierce Brosnan were among the celebrities spotted around the film-promotion or party circuit during the week and a half of screenings and deal-making. *AFP*

POLISH director Roman Polanski addresses the audience after being awarded with the Golden Palm d'Or for "The Pianist" during the closing ceremony of the 55th Cannes film festival. AP

TV and children

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

PARENTS and educators worry about the quality of TV programming, and its effect on young viewers. To raise the discussion to a more informed and thus more productive level, here are some relevant figures, courtesy of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television:

Metro Manila residents have access to as many as 100 television channels (5 VHF stations, 6 UHF stations, and over 80 cable channels).

Nationwide, there are 83 VHF stations, 6 UHF stations and 25 cable channels.

Filipino teenagers take in over 30 hours of broadcast material weekly.

There are 443 TV programs aired on commercial stations, 122 of which are children's shows.

The total broadcast time weekly is 919 hours.

A total of 122 hours is devoted to children's programs.

Children's programming comprises 23.14 percent of total weekly broadcast hours.

Filipino kids watch from 21 to 28 hours of TV a week. That's from 1,000 to 1,344 hours per year.

By age 30, 4 to 5 years of an average Filipino's life has been spent watching TV.

What can we infer from those figures? First, young Filipinos are bombarded with a lot of viewing choices. Since some of the material shown on cable TV is decidedly for adults, parents can no longer use TV as an "electronic yaya" and leave their kids to view television programs without adult supervision and guidance.

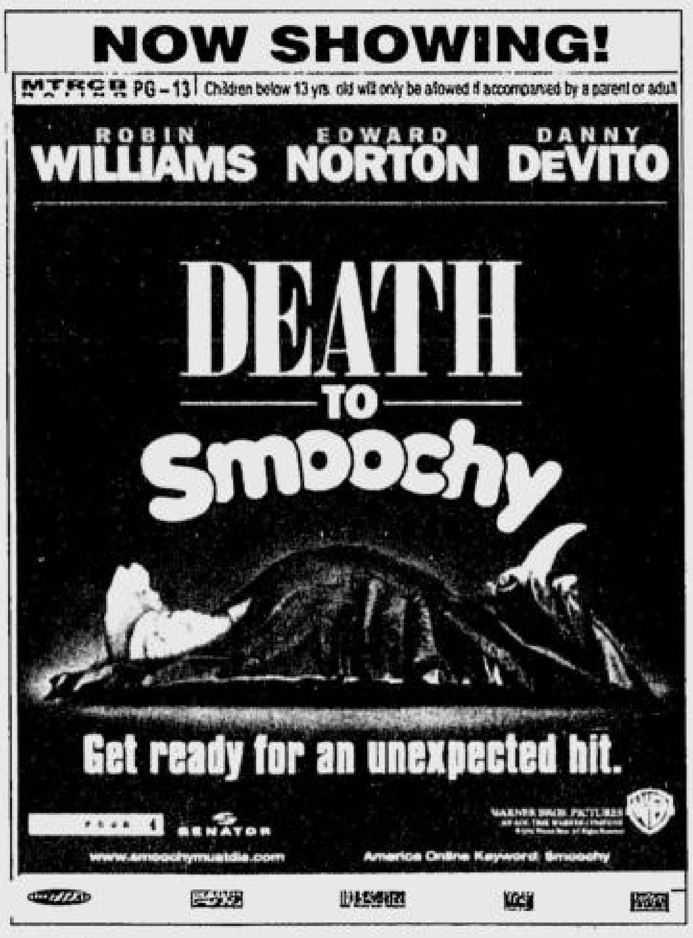
"Free" TV is supervised by the MTRCB, but the cable channels generally aren't, so parents have to devise methods to control children's access to them. Some do this with a technological lock, while others use a more personal approach.

The key word is neither control nor supervision, but guidance. It isn't enough to keep certain kinds of shows away from kids there must also be a discussion of the programs they do get to watch, so that negative aspects can be explained, and positive aspects can be highlighted.

This is difficult for many parents to do, since they're out working or are too busy with chores at home, sidelines, etc. But solutions must be found, or else children may be adversely affected by their unsupervised viewing.

Some parents improve this rule: no TV viewing without at least one parent present. Of course, this limits children's viewing hours, and they aren't happy about it. But their parents feel

TV AND/A29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RESIDENT EVIL-P12 11:45, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	DEATH TO SMOOCHY-P13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	PANIC ROOM-R18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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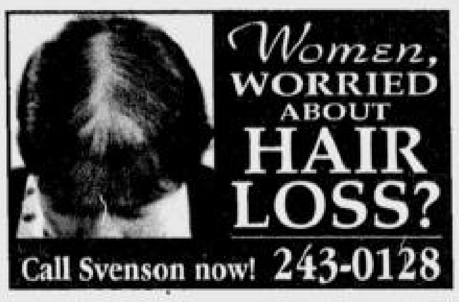
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Manufacturing output down 1.2%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing output reverted to a contraction of 1.2 percent in March from a year ago after posting a 3.3-percent growth in February, suggesting that foreign demand has not sufficiently improved to lift the industrial sector from the doldrums.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the volume of production by the country's 20 key manufacturing sectors again dropped in March, halting the positive momentum in February when the 11-month manufacturing slowdown was reversed.

The renewed weakness in the manufacturing sector in March meant that the industrial sector—which accounts for about 35 percent of the Philippine domestic economy—has yet to benefit from the improving economic indicators for the period. For instance, the country's imports in March surged to an 18-month high due to the strong rebound in electronics shipments while exports posted the smallest contraction seen in the last 14 months.

"This means that the manufacturing sector is still indecisive and cautious. The uptick in inventory was just to take advantage of the low interest rates and stronger peso but demand is still questionable," AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said.

"As long as there are no buyers for production, growth in manufacturing output cannot be sustained," he noted.

Vistan explained that the global demand remained weak because the United States was still in a transition from a recession to a slight economic recovery.

"The US is not yet in that stage where you can immediately enjoy a boom. As such, it is still not enough to ensure sufficient demand," he said.

Out of the 20 selected industries monitored by the NSO, 12 or 60 percent registered year-on-year volume declines, led by the 35-percent decline in the volume of petroleum products and the 31.4-percent drop in the output of paper/paper products.

Other sectors which posted double-digit volume declines were: beverage (24.6 percent); rubber products (22.5 percent); machinery excluding electrical (21.4 percent); publishing and printing (15.8 percent), and basic metals (10.2 percent).

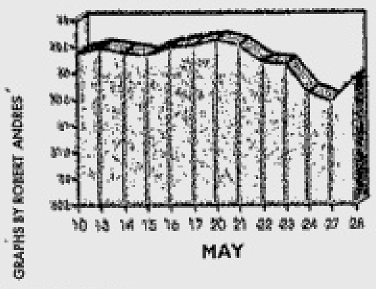
The NSO also reported a weakness in the output of chemical products, non-metallic mineral products, tobacco, wood/wood products and miscellaneous manufacturers.

On the other hand, the sectors which bucked the continued downtrend and recorded a strong volume growth were: footwear and wearing apparel (48.8 percent); leather products (47.1 percent); electrical machinery (34.3 percent); fabricated metal products (33.3 percent); furniture and fixtures (23 percent); food manufacturing (17.6 percent); transport equipment (9.7 percent), and textile (9.2 percent).

On a month-on-month basis, the volume of production index rose by 5.9 percent in March from February, led by leather products, beverage, furniture and fixtures, non-metallic products and paper/paper products.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.07 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 28, 2002

¥ 124.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 28, 2002

GOLD: $321.30/321.80
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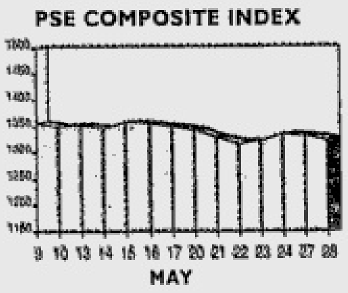
Erratum:
Due to a typographical error, the peso-dollar rate that appeared on May 28 was 50.35. It should have been 50.53

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended lower yesterday, weighed down by profit-taking by shareholders of blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 7.97 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,325.12.

"There's nothing to drive share prices one way or the other," said BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities research head Edgar Bancod.

"It's a waiting game. Investors are waiting for signs the tide is turning for the better."

Total volume expanded to 298.5 million shares valued at P303.8 million, from Monday's 274.8 million shares at P260.2 million.

Decliners led gainers 37 to 22, while 28 issues were unchanged.

The peso's volatility also forced foreign investors to stay on the sidelines and wait for its sharp movement to abate before returning to the market.

"The peso started to become volatile again which became a cause for concern. It raises risk premiums for foreign investors," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

PLDT was instrumental in dragging down the index, giving up P17.50, or 3.9 percent, to P430, as investors took profit following the stock's 3.5-percent rise Monday.

AP, Reuters

Imported vehicles seen flooding RP starting 2003

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has told the local automotive industry to get ready for an influx of imported vehicles next year as tariffs on both assembly or completely knocked down (CKD) packs and finished or completely built-up (CBU) units would be pegged at a common 5 percent.

CKD packs of passenger cars are levied 10 percent while commercial vehicles and motorcycles are slapped 3 percent. All CBUs are charged 30 percent.

A source said Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II disclosed his agency's plan during a recent meeting of Japanese assemblers—Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp., Honda Cars Philippines Inc., Nissan Motors Philippines Inc., and Isuzu Philippines Corp.

The local automotive industry had ap-

IMPORTED/ B2

RP-US EFFORT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING
Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding providing for broader USAID support in the country's fight against money laundering. Buenaventura, who also heads the Anti-Money Laundering Council, said the Philippines will receive more support from the US government in terms of training and assistance for software and hardware acquisition, and database sharing. Also present at the signing are USAID mission director Patricia Buckles and BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

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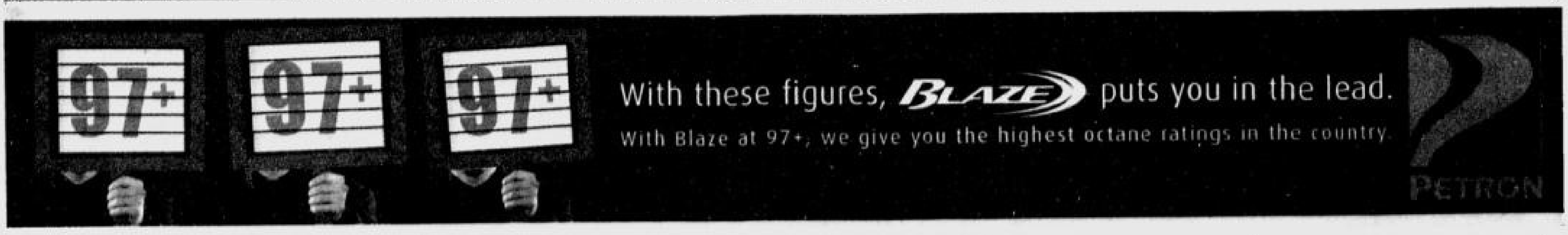
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PETRON

BSP urges banks to form asset management units

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is preparing a set of incentives aimed at encouraging banks to form their own asset management groups in lieu of special purpose asset vehicles.

BSP officials said the bill on special purpose asset vehicles might not be passed before the June 6 recess of the Congress.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the BSP should provide a mechanism that would enable banks to get rid of problematic loans in the event the SPAV bill would not be passed.

Reyes said the central bank could allow banks that would set up their own asset management companies to stagger the booking of their losses in the next five to seven years.

While the BSP is prepared to grant incentives to banks forming their own asset management vehicles, it is also urging them to consider other options such as raising their capital through borrowings, equity infusion or merger with stronger institutions, said the BSP official.

If banks were allowed to stagger the booking of their losses, they need not put up additional capital immediately. "If they book their losses immediately, their capital will be wiped out and they will need infusion," said Reyes.

A SPAV, also known as an asset management company, is a unit that will buy the banks' bad assets and loans at huge discounts. It is expected to sell these assets at higher prices or collect the loans at higher rates.

Under the bill on SPAVs, the asset management companies will be given two years to buy the bad assets from the banks and another five years to sell them. The SPAVs will be exempted from the documentary stamp tax and capital gains taxes. They will also be allowed to carry over losses within seven years.

"Banks have to face the realities. They cannot postpone the take-out of their loans forever or wait for the recovery of the real estate sector, which cannot happen in the next five years," said Reyes.

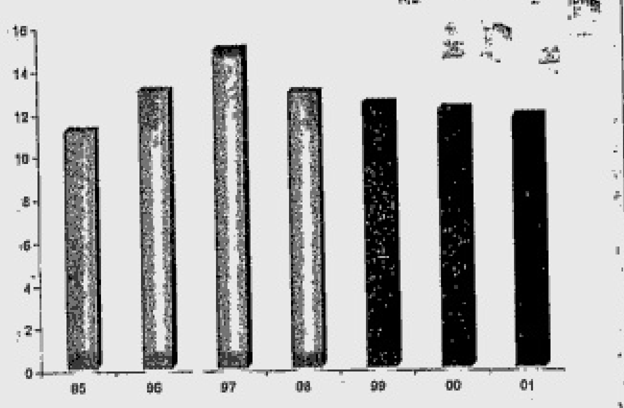
Reyes said the banks did not have to set up a new company because they can use their trust department for their "SPAV" operations.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Local cement consumption

(2000 & 2001, in million metric tons)



Source: Industry players

TOTAL cement consumption last year fell 2.5 percent to 11.8 million metric tons. Of the total, close to 20 percent was imported cement, which was 7 percent higher than in 2000.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Group says port tariff rollback won't reduce cargo handling cost

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Groups calling for a rollback in port tariffs are barking up the wrong tree if they hope a rollback could lower the cost of moving and handling cargo.

Rene Cruz, general manager of South Cotabato Integrated Port Services Inc., said this as he explained that a 10-percent reduction in freight cost charged by shipping companies would have greater cost impact than eliminating the arrastre fees.

This is because arrastre and stevedoring charges make up only 4 to 8 percent of the total freight and handling cost pier to pier.

He said this was contrary to the claims of the Coalition for Shipping and Port Modernization that port-related charges accounted for 49 percent of total freight and cargo handling cost. He said the CSPN calculation was not only erroneous but also misleading because it included non-port-related costs like billings of cargo forwarders, consolidators, customs brokers and truckers for activities that take place inside the port.

Cruz said that for class A containerized cargo, the arrastre rate in GenSan accounted for 2.25 percent of total freight and handling cost. Pier-to-pier to Manila, the rate makes up 4.66 percent, value-added tax and share of the Philippine Ports Authority included.

Cruz explained that while arrastre fees were fixed regardless of commodity and classification, freight charges vary so that a mere commodity reclassification could jack up a shipper's freight cost.

With a landed cost at GenSan of P750 per sack, the shipper pays port-to-port arrastre of P4.97 per sack (P1,590 for entire container), P45.88 per sack for freight (P14,682) for container), and P11.69 per sack for trucking (P3,740 for container). Thus the total landed cost to the shipper's warehouse would be P812.54 per sack, with arrastre constituting only 0.61 percent of the total cost per sack of rice compared to 5.65 percent for freight and 1.44 percent for trucking.

If rice were reclassified as a class A commodity, the freight per sack would more than double to P101.46 while the arrastre fee would remain the same.

A 10-percent reduction in freight charges, he said, would mean savings of P3,247, or more than double the arrastre fee of P1,590 for a 20-foot container.

Cruz said all these belied claims that port cargo handling charges were to blame for the high cost of moving goods around the country.

He complained that while shipping rates were deregulated, so that shipping companies could increase their charges freely to respond to market forces, port operators had to contend with public hearings and government approval before any adjustment in arrastre and stevedoring rates could be effected.

Subic Freeport posts 297% increase in tourist arrivals

PAYUMO

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The country's premier freeport recorded a 297-percent increase in tourist arrivals in the first quarter this year. This was the highest increase in tourist arrivals recorded by SBMA since 1997.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo said this marked another milestone for Subic Freeport's goal of becoming one of the top tourist destinations in the country, "especially with the friendly gate we launched two years ago."

According to SBMA tourism department, local and foreign tourists who have visited the Freeport reached 2.45 million beating the 2001 record of 616,893 visitors in the same period.

"We have monitored a 297-percent increase in tourist arrival this quarter because the 2001 figure dropped due to the tension arising from Edsa and the several rallies staged at the Freeport gates. We attribute the significant increase in tourist arrivals to the several crowd-drawing activities lined up," said SBMA tourism department manager Armin Santos.

During this period, the freeport played host to several tourism activities such as the Explore 2002: The North Philippines Expedition, the Chinese New Year celebration, and the Valentine's day Job Fair.

Santos added that some 973,246 tourists were recorded to have visited the Freeport in March alone, the highest monthly figure in the first quarter of 2002.

In March, the following activities were held: inauguration of the Science and Technology Center, the SBMA Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament, the Mangga-labukab Festival, the Lenten presentation, and the Nike Tennis Clinic.

"We are expecting this figure to be surpassed by next quarter because we have more fun-filled activities lined up for the rest of the summer," Santos further noted.

SBMA has lined up events for the whole year that would draw visitors into the freeport. Among the major events are SBMA Chairman's Cup National Youth Baseball/Softball Invitational Championships, Earth Day Celebration, Japan Foundation Film Festival, Volkswagen Race, Andrew E. concert, 1st Coca-Cola National Tennis Championship, Regine Velasquez in concert, Rotaract Club's Beach Bodies 2002, and Grand Santacruzan of the Mangga-labukab Festival.

In a recent visit here, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed satisfaction in the performance of SBMA in attracting investors and generating more job opportunities.

SBMA trade and tourism deputy administrator Dennis Oliquino expressed confidence that the impressive performance of the freeport in the first quarter would continue throughout the year after the SBMA has started tapping Subic's potential as a viable area for multinational companies to establish regional headquarters.

Oliquino added that with the enhanced economic strategy of SBMA and its institutional strengthening policies, Subic Freeport has been receiving numerous investment proposals for information, communication and technology business.

The SBMA has generated a total of P50.4 billion worth of investments from October 1998 to March this year.

Sophos eyes bigger market share

TWO years after the Filipino-created Love Bug disrupted computer operations all over the world, Sophos Anti-Virus of the United Kingdom has laid out plans to expand its sales base in the Philippines in a move to corner 5 to 10 percent of the local virus protection market.

In a news briefing yesterday, Sophos Asia managing director Charles Cousins said many Filipino corporations had enough virus protection, but a lot more were still too lax when it came to shielding their systems from unexpected virus attacks.

"Many Filipino companies are really well protected, from the desktop to the server level. But some companies are content with gateway scanning only," he said.

He explained that viruses could attack from different levels, from the Internet to Web-based e-mail to infected CD-ROMs, thus, Cousins said companies would have to be more vigilant in warding off viruses that could damage their mainframes and lead to lost data.

"There are still a lot of opportunities for Sophos in the Philippines. Our market share here is quite small, only around 1-2 percent. We would be happy to make number three in the Philippines," he said.

To grab a bigger chunk of the local market, Sophos recently appointed seven new business partners that would, in turn, increase the availability of the anti-virus software in the local market.

These new partners include network security consultants Gable Computing, I-Secure and TechSecure and system integrators Micro Genesis, InfoBahn, Tridel Technology Inc. and Trends & Technologies Inc.

The new partners would be offering Sophos' product suite to multinational corporations, educational institutions, utilities and government agencies.

"The continuous reports of enterprises being infected by computer viruses indicate that some still do not have adequate protection in place. A multi-layered approach, combined with safe computing practices, is essential to building a complete defense," Cousins said.

Sophos would provide its new partners extensive support, which includes adequate training as well as sales tools that would enable them to advise customers on safe anti-virus practices.

Abigail L. Ho

Imported vehicles . . .

From page B1.

pealed to the DTI to maintain the status quo on CKD and CBU duties for a few more years by seeking an exemption for the sector from the Asean Free Trade Area next year, similar to Malaysia's successful lobbying to exempt its automotive industry.

Without the tariff advantage over CBUs, most CKD assembly plants—which are operating at a fraction of their capacity—are likely to close down as foreign automakers find it more profitable to get their models from factories overseas.

The industry's plea appears to have fallen on deaf ears as the government gave in to pressure from the United States, which has been badgering the Philippines on its trade-related investment measures (Trims), specifically the local content and export requirements that will be abolished by next year.

The Japanese assemblers, which invested heavily in their assembly plants prior to the Asian financial meltdown in 1997, noted that Philippine automotive parts makers would be affected by a uniform duty on CKD and CBU.

They said the current local content of vehicles of up to 45 percent was likely to be wiped out with the government's policy encouraging more CBU imports.

Malacañang has issued an order mandating the phase-out of local content requirements and elimination of net foreign exchange requirements for cars, commercial vehicles, and motorcycles by July 2003.

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MVP pay

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, who at one point was the highest paid Filipino executive in the region, has slashed down the compensation package of the new president/CEO of the real estate biggie Metro Pacific Corp.

That position is now being held by none other than MVP himself, after long-time colleague Ricardo Pascua left to strike out on his own in January.

For this year, the estimated compensation package, including bonuses, of the MPC president/CEO has been slashed to P5.28 million from P9.69 million in 2000 and P8.18 million last year, apparently in line with the cost-cutting measures imposed by the debt-laden firm.

That represents a nearly 50-percent pay cut since Metro Pacific welcomed the new millennium in a blaze of fireworks at its flagship Fort Bonifacio project.

Even the combined pay envelopes of MPC directors and senior officers have not been spared, and have been whittled down to P3.67 million this year from P4.39 million last year.

To continue with its belt-tightening measures, Metro Pacific will hold its annual stockholders' meeting next month in its modest headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, instead of the usual ballroom in a luxury Makati hotel.

Stockholders, bring your own *baon*.

Singaporean sallies

AND speaking of real estate, the Singaporeans have been quietly buying into choice but distressed real estate projects in Makati.

The Singaporean-managed Fraser Place, whose suites are twice the size of Ayala's Oakwood's, will be formally inaugurated tomorrow.

Located on Salcedo Village's Valero Street almost across from Citibank, Fraser Place was originally a luxury residential condominium project of the United Coconut Planters Bank until the bottom fell out of the market with the Asian currency crisis.

To continue the project, UCPB sold 40 percent to Singapore's Centrepoint Properties, which decided that converting the condominiums into serviced apartments would be a more viable alternative for the twin towers.

Another Singaporean real estate firm has also earlier taken the same route, when it acquired and transformed a whole condominium building into executive suites now known as Somerset Millennium, behind the Asian Management Institute in Legaspi Village.

The two private Singapore firms are apparently following the lead of Singapore's Government Investment Corp., which has taken a significant minority share in the country's tallest building, the PBCom Tower on Ayala and Herrera.

Mona Lisa denial

MONA Lisa Yuchengco, the San Francisco-based daughter of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, wrote to say that she has no monetary claim pending against New York-based fund manager Lilia Clemente-Calderon, contrary to what was reported in this column on May 24.

The disputed information, incidentally, was volunteered to *Cocktales* by a Yuchengco relative.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER San Miguel chair/CEO Andres Soriano III, whose sprawling Forbes Park property is also on Pili Street as that of the Arenases', has built a two-bedroom airconditioned cabana apparently without going through the wringer from the Forbes Park Association that socialite Rosemarie Arenas (*Cocktales*, May 27, 2002) is now being made to go through.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Pension fund keen on privatizing insurance business

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is planning to put up a spin-off company to pave the way for the possible privatization of its insurance business.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia told reporters that the pension fund would seriously study this option if the World Bank would recommend it favorably.

He said the World Bank was conducting a study to determine if the privatization of the GSIS' insurance business would be feasible and more advantageous for the state. The study is scheduled for completion in July.

Garcia said the insurance business was contributing about P700 million to the GSIS' yearly income.

He said the GSIS' spin-off company might sell part of its equity to foreign insurance firms.

The plan to privatize the insurance business of the GSIS, he said, was conceived in anticipation of the liberalization of the insurance sector under the World Trade Organization.

GSIS is the pension provider for more than 1.5 million government employees. It is also the sole insurer of all state-owned assets.

Garcia said the pension fund was also considering proposals of investment banks for the GSIS to have some offshore investments.

"But the finance department strongly advised us against pursuing it because of its impact on the foreign exchange rate," said Garcia.

GSIS' actuarial life is projected to last up to 2068.

BSP chief says ₱48-$1 achievable

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the peso could still recover to 48 to a dollar this year despite weakening in the last few days.

"It is still very possible for the peso to hit 48 as some banks had projected for as long as other currencies are also headed in the same direction," the central bank chief said.

The peso went back past the 50-to-$1 level last Friday but had bounced back to P50.07 yesterday. Last Monday, the peso slid to 50.53.

Buenaventura said the volatile peso movement in the last few days was caused by panic buying of dollars among companies with maturing foreign obligations.

"The market had overreacted in the last few days. It is good to see the peso moving in tandem with regional currencies anew," he added.

Partly to blame was the bullish projection of at least three foreign banks that the peso would recover to the 48:$1 level in the next three to six months.

"The (indebted) corporations acted like a herd cattle and refused to buy at the 49 level but panicked and decided to buy when it went down to 50," Buenaventura said.

BSP/ B8

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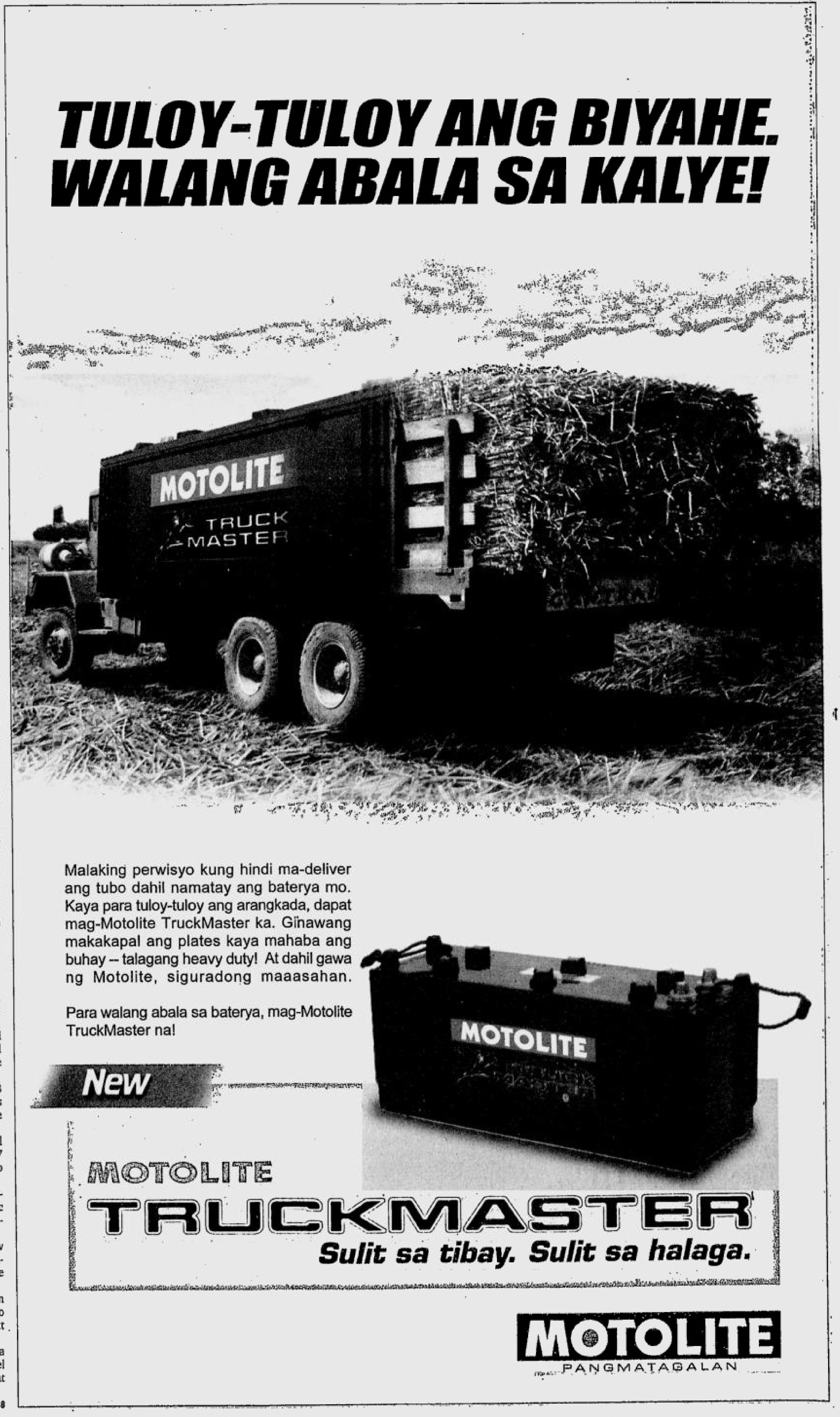

Malaking perwisyo kung hindi ma-deliver ang tubo dahil namatay ang baterya mo. Kaya para tuloy-tuloy ang arangkada, dapat mag-Motolite TruckMaster ka. Ginawang makakapal ang plates kaya mahaba ang buhay – talagang heavy duty! At dahil gawa ng Motolite, siguradong maaasahan.

Para walang abala sa baterya, mag-Motolite TruckMaster na!

Meralco joins Union Bank in new credit card venture

By Doris C. Dumlao

UTILITY giant Manila Electric Co. is diversifying into the financial services business to boost its sagging revenues over the long term, starting with a new credit card venture with Union Bank of the Philippines.

Meralco chair and CEO Manuel Lopez announced during the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday that Meralco Financial Services Corp. (Finserve) was incorporated "to optimize shareholder value creation by generating additional revenues."

Finserve was among the five new subsidiaries recently created by Meralco. The four others were energy services provider Meralco Energy Inc. (MEI); business-to-business venture e-Meralco Ventures Inc. (e-MVI); energy policy research and training institute Asian Center for Energy Management, and training and development center MLDC Foundation Inc.

In an interview on the sidelines of the meeting, Lopez explained that the venture into the financial services business aimed to harness the consumer network already established by Meralco and other affiliate utility companies.

"It will be a multi-utility project," Lopez said. "We're taking advantage of our database."

The Lopezes likewise control water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc., fixed line provider Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and mobile phone provider Express Telecommunications Inc.

Finserve's inaugural venture is a credit card partnership with UnionBank.

"If we are able to get the minimum of 100,000 we had in our projection, then that will be very good for us and we can do this within the year," Lopez said.

"It's one of the opportunities we saw when the industry was deregulated, that we can capitalize on our branding in Meralco plus our customer base. We have 3.8 million customers. If we can just get a fraction of those to become cardholders, it will be a big advantage," he added.

Lopez said Meralco would initially shell out about P60 million to jumpstart the new financial services unit.

"Over time, we'll go into other (financial) activities," he said.

During the first quarter of the year, Meralco reported a net loss of P72.8 million, a reversal of the P394.4 million net profits a year ago, due to a slowdown in sales volume and an acceleration of system losses.

Meanwhile, two other new Meralco subsidiaries are likewise seen to contribute to the company's earnings over the long term.

MEI, which was established two years ago, extends energy-related services beyond metering, such as facilities management, testing, troubleshooting as well as supply and installation of electrical equipment. In 2001, MEI formed its energy management business and studied new technology. It plans to offer utility management services to other utilities and cooperatives.

e-MVI, on the other hand, studied and developed new businesses in the new economy value chain such as fiber optics, direct marketing, e-procurement, e-bills, and power line communications. For this year, it plans to focus on communication services such as data transport, Internet access and network management. It has likewise tied up with information technology firms to market IT solutions.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of May 28, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,800,000	1,850,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	90,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	330,000
Canlubang	500,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	190,000	220,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	12,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	230,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,100,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	410,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	600,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	7,000,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Digitel profit hits ₱67M on strong revenue growth

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. posted a consolidated net income of P66.9 million in 2001, 1,423 percent higher than the P4.7 million profit the year before.

Its operating revenues also grew 35 percent from P4.8 billion in 2000 to P6.5 billion last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Digitel president John Gokongwei Jr. said the company was able to significantly expand its revenues as well as its share of the fixed line market despite various economic obstacles during the year.

"We emerged from the year 2001 with a performance that was the best among the (local exchange carrier) operators. Digitel grew by 11 percent versus the average industry growth of 8.1 percent for fixed wire telephone service," he said.

He attributed the growth in fixed line revenues to the increase in the telecommunication firm's subscriber base, some currency-related adjustments in service rates and the establishment of direct circuits with major foreign carriers, which boosted Digitel's international toll revenues.

As of end-2001, Digitel had 403,000 subscribers, 10 percent more than the previous year's 365,000 subscribers. It is now servicing 271 towns and cities in Luzon through 674 regional and local exchanges.

The company's presence in the United States also allowed it to enter into agreements with various US-based operators.

This, in turn, jacked up the volume of traffic between Digitel and its foreign correspondents, boosting inter-carrier revenue by 195 percent to more than P1.7 billion in 2001 from P597 million in 2000.

The company firm would also be complementing its fixed line business with a cellular service unit that Gokongwei earlier said would start full commercial operations by October.

"We are confident that, given the experience of our Digitel-GSM management team, the versatility of the mobile technology that we have chosen to construct our network and the support of our majority shareholders, JG Summit Holdings Inc., our venture into the mobile phone market will be crowned with success," he said.

Meanwhile, the Digitel broadband backbone project is scheduled for completion next month. It would enable the telecommunication company to provide high bandwidth services including high-speed Internet, asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), Internet protocol (IP), leased lines, video-on-demand, videoconferencing and broadcast.

The Makati fiber loop access network project, on the other hand, would enable Digitel to provide data and voice services to selected buildings in the Makati Central Business District.

The firm also recently completed its Visayas and Mindanao ATM backbone to be able to meet the demand of banks and other financial institutions for domestic leased line and frame relay services.

Universal Robina earmarks ₱3B for expansion projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEIS' consumer goods unit Universal Robina Corp. is spending P3 billion this year mostly to build new manufacturing plants here and abroad.

URC president and CEO Lance Gokongwei told reporters after the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday that the budget for capital expenditures this year was bigger than the P1.9 billion spent last year. Of the total, about P1.8 billion had been disbursed in the first quarter.

Gokongwei said the four major items to be covered by the capital outlays for the year were the confectionery plants in Shanghai and in Jakarta; the expansion of its BOPP (biaxially oriented polypropylene film) plant in Batangas, which produces raw material for flexible packaging, and the construction of a new flour factory in Pasig.

The plants in Shanghai and Jakarta are scheduled to start operations by June.

"We maintain our long-term commitment to brand-building not just in the Philippines but in the neighboring Asean countries and China as well," Gokongwei said.

Gokongwei estimated that URC's offshore businesses were growing by 20 percent each year, and now contributing 13 percent of the revenues pumped in by its entire branded foods business.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED to the board of **Security Bank Corp.** were Frederick Dy, Paul Ung, Philip Ang, Efren Aranzamendez, Anastacia Dy, Jose Facundo, James Hung, Jose Perpetuo Lotilla, Eduardo Plana, Rafael Simpao Jr. and George Sly.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. said it has reviewed its contracts with **National Power Corp.** in view of Napocor's reduction of the purchased power adjustment charged to consumers. It said the reduction does not affect its selling price to Napocor. There are two distinct transactions and should be independent of one another.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 2 p.m., at the Magellan Room, Discovery Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 20, 2 p.m., at the Makati AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Makati City. The record date is set on May 16.

* * *

PANCAKE House Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 28, 10 a.m., at the PHI Commissary, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

* * *

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. said it is not aware of any information that could have caused the increase of its trading price. It believes the price was purely market-driven.

* * *

FORUM Pacific Inc. said it has no knowledge of any information that may have affected the value and trading of its securities. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, May 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	1,275,100
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	80	100	80	100	800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	56	942,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39	261,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	136,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	40.5	39.5	40	299,300
Security Bank Corp.	15	15.25	15	15.25	74,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23	23	155,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	61,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1455	1455	1455	710
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1100	1100	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	29.5	29.5	37,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.61	0.67	0.61	0.66	6,020,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	670	655	670	3,440
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	5,200,000
Piltel	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	820,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	450	450	427.5	430	101,660
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	13,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	23.5	23	23.5	23,300
Manila Electric Co. B	36	36	34	34	1,169,700
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	4,923,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	334,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.38	167,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	34	34	33.5	34	110,100
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	136,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	47.5	2,000
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	55.5	54	54	277,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	25,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	770,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.32	1,380,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	25,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	70,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	6,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	9,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.5	307,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7	6.9	6.9	81,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,900,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	920,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	800,000
Music Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	250,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.8	0.61	0.79	290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	160,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	190,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30	30	30	83,900
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	830	840	830	840	3,220
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	24,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	3,198,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3	355,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	2,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	2,829,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2	2.2	2	2	194,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	3,200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	340,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	56,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	111,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,208,080	108,857,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	86,432,420	152,304,165.00
PRO	7,504,000	41,151,110.00
Mining	4,334,000	755,000.00
OIL	197,000,000	632,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	298,478,500	303,700,975.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	543.52	UP 1.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,787.32	DOWN 15.75
PRO	605.34	DOWN 2.71
Mining	1,433.14	DOWN 27.71
OIL	1.23	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	754.28	DOWN 6.33
Composite	1,325.12	DOWN 7.97

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 1,807

CURRENCIES

May 28, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.085541	1.000000	50.5600
Japan	Yen	0.008707	0.008021	0.4055
United Kingdom	Pound	1.582393	1.457700	73.7013
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139185	0.128217	6.4827
Switzerland	Franc	0.686052	0.631991	31.9535
Canada	Dollar	0.708161	0.652358	32.9832
Singapore	Dollar	0.603749	0.556174	28.1202
Australia	Dollar	0.603413	0.555864	28.1045
Bahrain	Dinar	2.879571	2.652661	134.1185
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.289478	0.266667	13.4827
Brunei	Dollar	0.602074	0.554631	28.0421
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025340	0.023343	1.1802
UAE	Dirham	0.295570	0.272279	13.7664
Korea	Won	0.000884	0.000814	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.921200	46.5759
Argentina	Peso	0.318340	0.293255	14.8270
Brazil	Real	0.428053	0.394322	19.9369
Denmark	Kroner	0.134557	0.123954	6.2671
India	Rupee	0.022191	0.020442	1.0335
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.285669	0.263158	13.3053
Mexico	New Peso	0.113515	0.104570	5.2871
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511083	0.470810	23.8042
Norway	Kroner	0.134441	0.123847	6.2617
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018122	0.016694	0.8440
South Africa	Rand	0.108717	0.100150	5.0636
Sweden	Kroner	0.109574	0.100940	5.1035
Syria	Pound	0.024840	0.022883	1.1570
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031686	0.029189	1.4758
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001083	0.000998	0.0505

Restraining order on UOB case stays

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court has extended indefinitely the temporary restraining order stopping United Overseas Bank Ltd. and local subsidiary United Overseas Bank Philippines from pursuing an arbitration case before the Australian Commercial Disputes Center against the group of fast-food magnate Antonio TanCaktiong and William Tan Untiong.

UOBL and UOBP were seeking to collect from the Tan group P1.65 billion, exclusive of damages, for the 33-percent stake in UOBP, that the Tan group had agreed to subscribe to.

Earlier, the group led by John Espiritu, son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp., Alfonso Reyno, Untiong and Tan Caktiong filed a case with the regional trial court to regain control of UOBP.

The Espiritu and Tan group claimed that UOBL had failed to honor its obligation to pay the Filipino group P1.4 billion in exchange for giving up control of the bank.

The failure constrained them from subscribing to the shares of UOBP, they argued.

In line with the case, the Filipino group was able to get a temporary restraining order last month to prevent the continuation of the hearing of the arbitration case in Australia. The TRO lapsed Monday.

INQUIRER contacted UOBP Monday for comment but UOBP senior vice president Emmanuel Mangosing said that the case was "being handled out of Singapore so no comment could be made except by the Singaporeans." As of press time yesterday, the Singapore bank has yet to issue a statement on the issue.

In the meantime, United Overseas Bank Phils. announced that its annual shareholders' meeting that was scheduled last May 24 at Shangri-La Hotel Makati was postponed to June 24 due to lack of quorum.

In the notice of postponement, UOBP said that United Overseas Bank Ltd., which owns 60 percent of the bank, had revoked its proxies. It was the Singaporean group's intention to wait for a letter of clarification from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on a query regarding the requirement of Circular No. 296 on the appointment of independent directors, UOBP said.

Under the law and BSP Circular No. 296 that took effect in September last year, at least two directors of a bank should be independent. This means the individual should have no material or business relationship with the bank's shareholders and related parties that may interfere with his or her judgment.

FORUM ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
The INQUIRER was chosen as the official national publication of the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility to be held on July 2-4 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. The forum promises to gather some 250 CEOs and officials to promote best practices in corporate social responsibility in the Asia-Pacific region. Forum chair Ramon R. del Rosario, vice chair Felipe Alfonso of the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Asian Institute of Management Center for Corporate Responsibility, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and corporate relations manager Celine R. Madamba formalized the arrangement in a signing ceremony held recently. JOAN BONDOC

GOINGS-ON

CEB exec is SKAL head

PATRICIO Alcaraz, Cebu Pacific's VP for international marketing and administration, was elected national president of the tourism organization SKAL International-Philippines. Alcaraz is also the incumbent president of SKAL-International Makati.

The other SKAL International officers are: Philippine Airlines' Avelino Zapanta, national vice president and president of SKAL International-Manila; Charles Lim of SELRAHCO Hotels and Resorts, national vice president and president of SKAL International-Cebu; George Misa of Buenavista Travel, national vice president and president of SKAL International-Davao; Demetrio Silverio of Abacus, treasurer; Chit Montenegro, secretary, and Ken Graham, international councilor.

Finex meet

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) will have Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon as the special guest in its fifth general membership meeting today, at 12 noon at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Gordon will speak on the state of domestic tourism in the country. Finex members and their guests are enjoined to register early for the meeting.

Investment forum

PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia B. de Lima will speak on the Philippine Ecozone Development Program during the Finex-Peza Investment Forum. The forum will be held at the South Forbes and San Lorenzo Rooms of Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

CACCI meet

THE CONFEDERATION of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), an organization of the region's leading businessmen, is convening its 64th council meeting on June 4-5, 2002 at the Chinggis Khan Hotel in Ulaanbatar, Mongolia.

Representatives from the national chambers of commerce and industry of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam are expected to attend the meeting. This year's gathering will be inaugurated by H.E. Nambarlin Enkhbayar, prime minister of Mongolia, and will be hosted by the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI), an umbrella organization of the Mongolian private sector.

Citystate Bank's earnings

CITYSTATE Savings Bank, a publicly listed Filipino-Singaporean joint venture, has reported a 404-percent increase in its net income last year from year-ago level, the bank's audited financial statements for 2001 show.

In its annual report, Citystate Bank said it registered net earnings of P7 million in 2001 from P1.8 million the year before.

D. Alfred A. Cabangon, Citystate Bank president, said the increase in net earnings, coupled with the proceeds from the initial public offering (IPO) of the shares of the bank, raised capital funds to P459 million, an increase of P121 million or 35.78 percent from P338 million in 2000.

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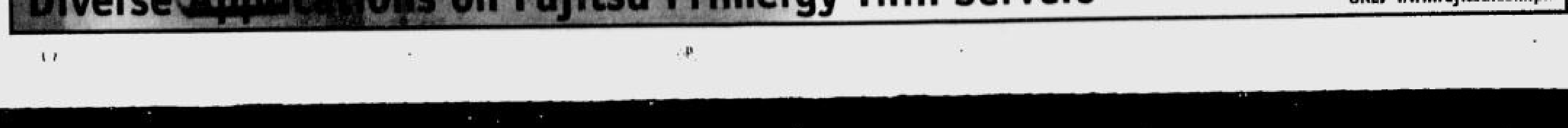
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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

CFC 'build' telethon

ON JUNE 1 and 2, the Couples for Christ community will hold a national "Build" event which will witness at least 25,000 CFC members building 1,000 houses in about 70 areas in the Philippines, and turn over those houses to 1,000 family beneficiaries within 48 hours.

The national "Build" event is part of an ongoing program in Gawad Kalinga areas which focuses on shelter, health, education and livelihood. Gawad Kalinga areas are situated in poor communities which have become the priority intervention targets of CFC's social ministries. Gawad Kalinga areas are also zones of cooperation and fraternity, where social and economic divisions are dismantled and the bayanihan spirit is the attitude and manner that is promoted.

In its mission for the poor, the CFC community has activated 79 Gawad Kalinga areas run by its CFC chapters. Starting with rebuilding the worst housing structures in impoverished communities such as Bagong Silang in Novaliches, Payatas in Quezon City, and Magsungay in Bacolod City. CFC also pioneered the opening of new communities in Escalante, Negros Occidental, in Barangay Bajum Pandan, Banalig, Dumaguete, and in Lobregat Village in Zamboanga.

In recognition of the effectiveness and uniqueness of the CFC way, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had asked the CFC community to build for government and additional 1,000 houses for the poor. A P30-million grant was allocated for the project or P30,000 per house. CFC will, however, be spending much more as this amount covers only the materials and not the cost of the land, land preparation and development, and labor. The Gawad Kalinga program is a comprehensive and integrated approach to community development. There will be continuing efforts to establish health, educational and livelihood facilities in all Gawad Kalinga areas.

To broaden and intensify information about, and solicit support for, the "Build" program of CFC's Gawad Kalinga, a national telethon titled "A Time to Build" will be mounted on June 2 on ANC, the ABS-CBN News Channel starting at 10 a.m.

Through its hourly updates from the regional reports, the telethon will be an informational campaign which can show ongoing Gawad Kalinga projects in different areas of the Philippines. The telethon will also show the "Build" activities that started the day before and which will culminate on June 2 with the turning over of 1,000 houses to 1,000 family beneficiaries.

The telethon will encourage everyone to support "A Time to Build" projects by contributing building materials, cash or labor. These contributions can be given to the CFC Center in Ortigas Avenue or in the various Gawad Kalinga areas around the country.

Donations in kind can be anything that goes directly to constructing houses such as lumber, cement, hollow blocks, paint, or roofing materials. It can also be in the form of donations of land, upon which new communities can be established.

PCAFI OFFICERS CALL ON JDV

The officers of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) made a courtesy call on Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (fifth from left) to present him some of the concerns of the stakeholders in agriculture, fisheries and food. Shown, from left, are Antonio Roces, VP-Luzon, Dodi Rondain, secretary, Rolly Dy, director, Albert Lim, director, Alex T. Escaño, president, Felix Gonzales, director general, Vicente Castro, director, Alonso Tan, director, and Leon Arceo, VP-Visayas.

PLDT Vibe Internet launch party

COME to the PLDT Vibe Internet launch party at the NBC Tent at The Fort today, Wednesday, May 29. Be part of this biggest party ever with drinks and prizes to be won. Dance, rave and feel the vibe of featured bands Hyperbeat, Toy Symphony and DJ Bobbit Villaluz. Gates open at 9 p.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis.

E. EXCEL FUN DAY

E.Excel International Philippines, the sole distributor of functional food and skin care products from E. Excel in Utah, recently held a successful Family Fun Day at Le Pavilion along Roxas Boulevard. The event was especially prepared to give kids and their families an afternoon of fun and excitement through sports. Making the event more special was the presence of E. Excel founder Dr. Jau-Fei Chen (left) and E. Excel Philippines' general manager PH Lau and other E. Excellers.

RP MAKE-UP TEAM REAPS HONORS

The Philippine delegation to the recently concluded 7th APHCA Hair and Make-Up Olympics held in Bangkok, Thailand show off the trophies won to proud mentor Ricky Reyes. The man behind the prestigious beauty parlor chain, the creative hands behind popular celebrities' hair and make-up and the amiable teacher of the long-running TV show 'Beauty School Plus' is also the founder of Fil-Hair Cooperative. He personally supervises the training and pre-Olympics preparation of local hairdressers who compete in the yearly contest organized by the Asia Pacific Hairdresser Cosmetologist Association (APHCA). Shown, from left, are Rey Pamen, Espie Novillas, Ricky Reyes, First Hoplena and Jun Catabay.

Seminars in food and bev show

THE FOOD and Beverage Engineering Expo 2001 held last August at the SM Megatrade Halls marked an unprecedented turnout of major industry players who gathered during the four-day exhibit to exchange the most recent technological advancements and trends in the expanding food and beverage industry.

The Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers-Manila Host Chapter (PSME-MHC), prime movers of the three-year-old annual event, in strategic partnership with Fairs & More Inc., an affiliate of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), with the full backing of industry giants Petron Gasul and San Miguel Beer, in cooperation with Unilever Philippines, Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils., La Tondeña Distillers Inc. and the Department of Agriculture, present the 4th International Food and Beverage Exposition (Foodtech/Bevtech) 2002 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from June 16 to 19.

To highlight the exposition are seminars on the latest industry practices both here and abroad as part of the campaign to educate and update local standards to match with global principles. The seminar lineup includes free technical sessions to be presented by local and international industry experts. These seminars include General Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), as well as business trends seminars like Packaging and Labeling Techniques, Foreign Food and Bev Market Opportunities, Bistro Cooking and Bartending Basics.

For the complete list of the seminar and technical sessions, visit www.foodandbeverageexpo.com. For inquiries and reservations, the Exposition secretariat may be reached at 687-2955, 687-0654, 845-1324, or 759-6680, or e-mail mayose.cut@pacific.net.ph or egarcia@fairsandmore.com.

Foundation bares 2 expos for OFWs, SMEs at PTTC

THE PHILIPPINE Trade Training Center (PTTC) in Pasay City is the site of two must-see events for overseas Filipino workers and small and medium entrepreneurs this year. This was announced yesterday by the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation Inc (POFW-SMENFI).

The POFW-SMENFI—in partnership with government agencies and non-government organizations concerned with the OFW and SME families—is organizing expositions, seminars and other events to promote the welfare of the OFW and SMA families. It holds office at No. 53 18th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 437-1659 and 912-5803.

POFW-SMENFI vice president Gerry Ong said the events are "Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Expo 2002" slated from June 14 to 16 and "Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2002" set Dec. 5 to 8.

Ong said the PTTC is a perfect venue for OFW family events because of its proximity to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and foreign embassies. It is also a nice place for SME family activities since it is strategically located at the heart of the country's trade and convention capital, in close proximity to the Makati business center.

The "Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Expo 2002" is the first Philippine one-stop-shop opportunities exhibit and conference for OFW and SME families, while the "Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2002" is the first Philippine overseas employment and small and medium entrepreneurs exhibit and conference.

Ong said the objective of the two events are to make the OFW and SME families aware of where to best invest their hard-earned money.

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BONIFACIO STOPOVER GROUNDBREAKING

A well-attended groundbreaking ceremony signified the start of the construction for the second phase of Bonifacio Stopover, e-Square IT Park's retail hub. Present during the groundbreaking were (from left) Lourdes Rivera of Bacolod Chicken House, a representative from Delifrance, Gary Jacinto Jamora of Cucina, Chito Galvez of Chowking, Vicente C. Tinsay III, SVP-commercial operations of FBDC, Kaye Tinga of Taguig, Stuart Young of Nacho Fast, and Richard Tansiongkun of West Lake.

Ford's Summer Road Rush

FORD Group Philippines together with Ford Credit bring the hottest deals with Ford's Summer Road Rush. Get any of the built-Ford-tough trucks this month and enjoy low downpayment and low monthly installments. Not only that, Ford also gives the first monthly payment absolutely free of charge. Owning a Ford truck is made with downpayment as low as P140,000 for the Ranger XL 4x2 and P200,000 for the Ranger 4x4 variant. The offer is also available for buyers of the Explorer Sport Trac 4x4 and the F150 SuperCrew 4x4. Incentives also await cash buyers. This special deal runs until May 31. Get the coolest trucks in town at dealerships nationwide. In Metro Manila, Ford is located in Alabang, Balintawak, Edsa, Libis, Makati and Quezon Avenue. In the provinces, there's Ford in Bacolod, Cabanatuan, Cebu and Pampanga.

UP DIAMOND JUBILARIANS

The UP Diamond Jubilarians (Class of '42) met recently to plan its grand alumni homecoming and reunion on June 15 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman Campus, Quezon City. Shown is the UP Diamond Jubilarians committee led by president Dr. Julian R. Mendoza (seated, 4th from left) with officers and committee members (seated, from left) secretary Narita M. Gnzales, co-chair of Jubilarians committee class '55 Elsa B. DeVeyra, Dr. Elisa R. Tabanlag, MD, treasurer Justice Bienvenido C. Ejercito, and Edna Reyes. Standing, from left, are Dr. Damiana L. Eugenio, Flordelis Asis Aliga, Adela Banzon, Lydia B. Salonga, Dr. Francisca Chiklamco and Cristina V. Jasminez.

BITS & Clips

Hotelex 2002 opens today

LEADERS of the international hotel and restaurant industry will gather at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on May 30 to open the much-awaited "Hotelex 2002", the prestigious trade show on equipment, supplies, services, and food and beverage products. The 3-day Hotelex 2002 opens at 10 a.m. with ribbon-cutting rites, tour of the exhibits, and presentation of plaques of appreciation to distinguished members of the various industry sectors. Other highlights include a wine excellence competition, a gourmet lunch by the Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines, a series of seminars on the food business, and cooking and baking exhibitions. Now on its 10th year, Hotelex 2002 is supported by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, Food Caterers Association of the Philippines, HRCAP, Hotel and Restaurant Purchasing Managers Association of the Philippines, International Wines and Spirits Association, and the Philippine Retailers Association.

Mapua Tech alumni homecoming

THE NATIONAL Association of Mapua Alumni (Nama), the premier alumni organization of graduates of all the schools and departments of Mapua Institute of Technology (Mapua Tech), will hold its 68th Nama Annual Convention and Grand Alumni Homecoming on Saturday, June 1 at Edsa Shangri-la's Isla Ballroom. This was announced by engineer Cesar "Bobby" Castro, Nama president for 2001-2002. Nama has tasked engineer Fernando "Dinky" Dumuk, past president of the MIT EE AA, as overall chair. Tapped to chair this year's organizing committee for the homecoming event is chemist Hernando "Nando" P. Limsin, a stalwart of the MIT ChE-Chem AA. A golf tournament and a tenpin bowling tournament will highlight this year's Mapua Tech alumni convention and homecoming events.

Great Olympic Sale is back

ONE OF the country's one-stop sports and leisure store brings back its highly successful event sale "The Great Olympic Sale." To celebrate the event, Olympic World customers will be treated to great discounts of up to 70 percent on wide selections of sports and leisure brands such as Adidas, And 1, Accel, Keds, Yakpak, Skechers, Tretorn, Nike, and Reebok. Plus, a minimum purchase of P1,000 entitles customers to join the store's interactive games where they can win special prizes. Catch the Great Olympic Sale on its last day today at the second level of the Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center. Olympic World is the flagship store of the Olympic Village Group of Companies.

Buddha's 'mystic smile'

BE MESMERIZED and touched by the Buddha's 'Mystic Smile", an important and exclusive exhibition of timeless Buddha sculptures from across Asia ongoing at Raffles Fine Arts at 58 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati City until June 2. On exhibit are singularly striking and splendid 17th to 19th century antique Buddha sculptures never before seen. The highlight of the show is an important and huge 18th century Shan Buddha Head from Myanmar. Created using the "dry lacquer" technique perfectly executed by 18th century Burmese artisans, this spectacular sculpture is a testament to the awe in which Buddha images inspired in ancient Burma. For more details, call 899-1002 or 895-0409. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MWSS to secure $100M in new loans to pay for Maynilad debts

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System said yesterday it would acquire loans worth over $100 million from Germany's Deutsche Bank AG to pay for Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s unpaid concession fees.

In a news statement, the MWSS said Maynilad, a unit of the Lopez group of companies, would be unable to meet its June deadline to resume paying its concession fees, which had already reached P2.78 billion.

These fees cover debts, mostly dollar-denominated, acquired by Maynilad when it entered into a concession contract with the MWSS.

In 1997, the MWSS turned over its service area, which covers most of Metro Manila, to Maynilad and Manila Water Co. Inc.

In turn, Maynilad agreed to shoulder 90 percent of the MWSS' $800 million in debts.

With the peso losing its value between 1997 and 2002, this debt load has more than doubled, forcing Maynilad to suspend its concession payments to the MWSS.

MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade said with Maynilad still unable to pay its debts, the MWSS was forced to secure loans from Deutsche Bank to cover its own payments to creditors that included the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The MWSS arranged to secure some loans from Deutsche Bank, which the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved last week, Hondrade said.

Christine A. Gaylican

Chinatrust, ABS-CBN unit to sign OFW remittance deal

E-MONEY Plus, the global money remittance company of ABS-CBN International, is set to forge a memorandum of agreement with Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. for the remittance of funds channeled through the ABS-CBN unit by overseas Filipino workers.

e-Money Plus currently operates in Italy and Hong Kong.

The global remittance company, through its strong international marketing franchise via "The Filipino Channel" and ABS-CBN International, aims to expand the remittance service in North America and the Middle East this year.

"We are very happy to work with ABS-CBN's e-Money Plus in this project because it gives us the opportunity to serve the millions of working Filipinos abroad," said Chinatrust president Joey Bermudez.

Chinatrust maintains a strong remittance business in the Philippines through its ties with its parent Chinatrust Commercial Bank, the most profitable commercial bank in Taiwan.

Among the services provided through its remittance business are telegraphic transfers, demand drafts and OFW remittances.

Mindanao livestock seen bucking El Niño

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao could be the answer to the possible depletion of Luzon's source of livestock because of the worsening El Niño weather phenomenon.

Southern Mindanao is Mindanao's huge supplier of livestock products, with 30 percent of Mindanao's total export.

Mindanao contributes about 30 percent to the country's livestock production.

Rafael Mercado, chief of the livestock division of the Department of Agriculture regional office here, said Southern Mindanao could supply Luzon's 13- to 15-day livestock consumption.

"Given more opportunities, it (Southern Mindanao) would further increase production," Mercado said during the weekly "Kapihan sa PIA" on Saturday.

Mercado said the livestock industry was a major contributor to the country's economy. In 1999, it contributed P153 billion, which grew to P193 billion last year.

Mercado said the livestock population also increased by 30 percent last year.

The expected long dry season that might also hit Mindanao towards the end of the year, Mercado said, would have little effect on the livestock industry in Southern Mindanao. ***Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Asiatrust Bank posts P24-M net

ASIATRUST Bank has reported net earnings of P24 million in the first quarter of the year, up from P2.73 million in March a year earlier.

In the nine months of its fiscal year ended March 31 this year, however, the bank recorded an 11.7-percent decline in net earnings at P27.3 million from the previous year's P30.9 million.

Net interest income during the period slid 3 percent to P310 million following a series of drops in interest rates.

While the bank's other income rose by 8 percent at P11 million due to higher deposit-related service charges and improved trading income, this was offset by an increase in operating expenses by more than 13 percent.

PAL back in Guam on June 21

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. has renewed an old historical bond while eyeing new markets when it reopens a regular service between Manila and the US Pacific territory of Guam on June 21.

"We are always keen to grow our markets in the regional arena, and Guam, with its vibrant tourism-based economy, presents us a major opportunity to do so," said PAL president Avelino Zapanta.

"Our customers in Guam, especially the large Filipino community, have long clamored for our return. We are excited to be back and serve them."

The service will operate three times a week, with departures from Manila every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 p.m. Arrival at Guam's Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport is at 4:10 a.m. the following day.

The return flight departs Guam every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:40 a.m. arriving in Manila at 8:50 a.m.

PAL will field new-generation Airbus A320-200 aircraft, which seat 12 in Mabuhay (business) class and 138 in economy, on the 4-hour, 10-minute journey.

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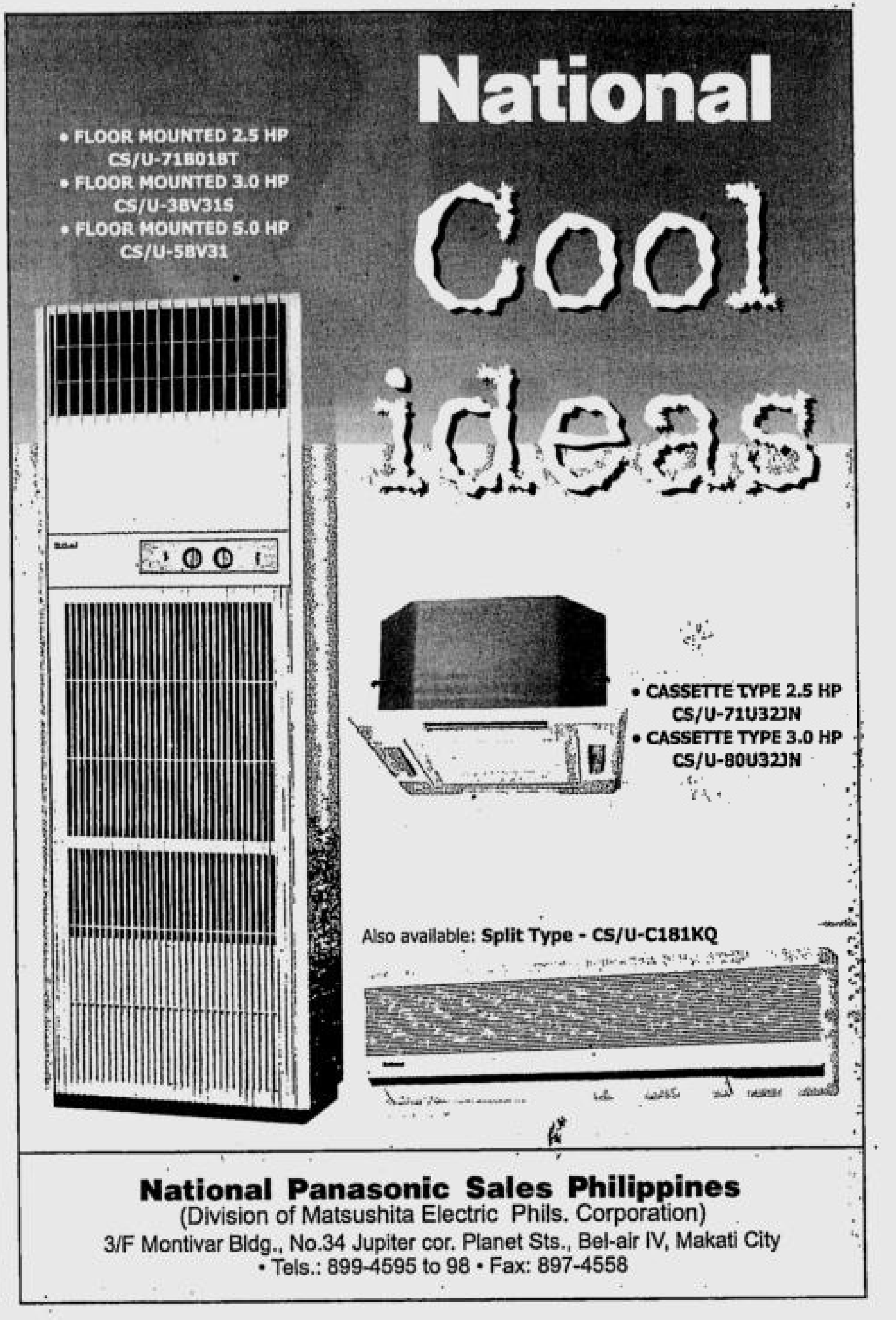

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The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) will conduct its prestigious annual management conference June 19, 2002. The conference will be attended exclusively by CEOs and other C-level executives, and has as its focus three central issues. The first of these issues is leadership. What kinds of leaders are required to build Asia's future industry champions? The second issue is the enterprise itself. What qualities will industry-leading enterprises exhibit? The third issue is community. What will be the nature of the relationship between the enterprise and the various elements of the ecosystem in which it operates?

Each of these issues will be discussed from three perspectives: competence, character, and contribution in five panels composed of world-class international and local speakers and two plenary sessions featuring an internationally renowned personality.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT S. KAPLAN
AUTHOR OF THE BALANCED SCORECARD

Through his innovative work in developing the *Balanced Scorecard* and activity-based costing, Robert S. Kaplan has revolutionized performance and cost management. Before audiences and in his recently released book *The Strategy-Focused Organization: How Balanced Scorecard Companies Thrive in the New Business Environment*, co-authored with David Norton, Kaplan articulates the key principles required to build an organization that can achieve breakthrough, sustainable performance improvements.

A Harvard Business School professor, Kaplan was recently singled out in Accenture's Top 50 Living Thinkers and Writers on Management Topics survey. Last year, he was also included in *The Financial Times* Top 20 business gurus. Kaplan publishes regularly in the *Harvard Business Review* and authored two influential, award-winning books *The Balanced Score Card* and *Cost & Effect*. At HBS, he is a developer and director of the school's most successful new executive program " Driving Corporate Performance: From Scorekeeping to Strategy."

Kaplan will deliver the opening and closing keynote presentations for the Manila conference.

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Food companies urged to use non-GMO inputs

GREENPEACE International has urged local food manufacturing firms such as General Milling Corp. and San Miguel Foods Corp. to shift to non-genetically-modified raw materials and ingredients.

Greenpeace resident international markets analyst Lindsay Keenan said in a press briefing yesterday that the organization has a list of suppliers that could provide food companies with non-genetically-modified raw materials and ingredients.

Environment groups like Greenpeace oppose the use of GMO materials saying they are yet to be scientifically proven safe to humans and to the environment.

"These (food) companies can acquire soya and corn, which are used as ingredients for their products, from other countries such as India and Brazil, instead of the United States and Argentina," said Keenan.

Greenpeace, however, admitted that this would mean additional costs of about $1,000 per metric ton of the shipment. The additional costs will include expenses for testing methods in preserving the shipment of non-GMO raw materials.

General Milling Corp. director for corporate affairs Ric M. Pinca said in another interview that the company could not easily shift to non-GMO raw materials.

"We have discussed the matter with Greenpeace but the question lies on the availability and consistency of supply," Pinca told the INQUIRER.

He said the company was considering the list of sources that Greenpeace had prescribed.

"We have made inquiries, but the countries they have referred to us such as India do not export soy beans, which we need," said Pinca.

Christine A. Gaylican

BSP chief says ₱48-$1 . . .

From page B3

He noticed that companies joined the buying binge of banks, which had to cover their short dollar position.

"If you have a forex exposure, you must learn how to hedge properly. They should have bought already when it was sufficiently strong instead of buying when it went down again," he advised the market.

A trader from a foreign bank said the BSP had been aggressively buying dollars from the market at the 49 level to help stabilize the rate and cushion its drastic uptick.

Yesterday, however, the BSP reportedly sold about $30 million in the spot market out of the total volume of $294.25 million to push the peso-dollar rate up.

Buenaventura declined to admit that the central bank had been intervening in the market except to say that it had been wary of speculative movements in recent weeks.

"We were there to make sure we won't have excessive volatility," he noted.

Buenaventura is averse to a drastic recovery of the local currency because it would signal instability.

A very strong currency that was not supported by similar movements among the country's trading partners would also be bad for the export sector, he added.

Exporters said they would prefer that the peso stabilize between 49 and 50 to a dollar. Anything higher would affect their competitiveness.

Foreign banks HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, and Standard Chartered Bank had said in separate projections that the peso would recover to the 48 level in the coming months.

Buenaventura said this level was still achievable provided the Japanese yen would not depreciate.

"We should watch out for the yen because it tends to drive other currencies, including ours," he said.

While the country has sound economic fundamentals, this achievement was not unique to the Philippines, Buenaventura said in trying to explain why the performance of regional currencies was crucial to the peso's value.

"We could not afford a very strong currency because it would make our exports weak and we would be flooded with cheap imports," he said.

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Honda's recall tops 2.5M units

TOKYO—Japan's second largest car maker Honda Motor Co. Ltd. said Tuesday its planned recall of passenger cars due to a faulty ignition switch is expected to top 2.5 million vehicles worldwide.

The company said it recently discovered it should recall an extra 230,000 vehicles in Asia and other regions to change defective parts of the ignition switch, which might cause engines to stall.

The cars, including popular models such as the Prelude and Odyssey, were produced between 1996 and December 1999 and shipped mainly from Japan.

The announcement came four days after Honda told the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport it would recall 743,417 vehicles sold in Japan, the fourth largest number reported at one time since the authority launched the recall system here in 1969.

Separately in the United States, American Honda announced it would recall about 1.34 million of certain Honda and Acura models sold in North America.

Honda now plans to recall 190,000 cars in Canada, 20,000 in Australia and 50,000 in Britain.

"The recall in the world would total 2.57 million," a spokesperson said.

Electrical contacts in the ignition switch are too high, meaning the car could stop working in the worst-case scenario, Honda said.

Subject to the recall in Japan are 13 models manufactured between August 1996 and December 1999.

American Honda said its recall involves certain 1997 to 2000 models of brands such as the Honda Accord, Civic, and Acura TL sedans.

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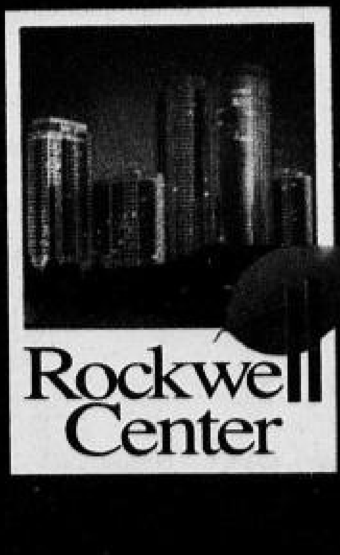

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NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to notify the public that
STOCK CERTIFICATE NO. 00022408
covering 208,228 shares owned by
Ma. Rosario Ahorro has been issued and
declared lost on January 21, 2002.
All transactions covered by this document
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 25, MANILA

THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF
ENTRY AS TO THE STATUS OF SEX
MARILETTE C. PIMENTEL,
SP. PROC. NO. 02-103051

MARILETTE C. PIMENTEL,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------x

ORDER

In her verified petition, petitioner prays among others that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered to correct the entry as to petitioner's sex status as erroneously entered in the Certificate of Live Birth as MALE instead of FEMALE.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and in substance, let the instant case be set for hearing on May 30, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning, at which date and time, any interested person may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Likewise, petitioner is hereby ordered to cause the publication of this order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general publication.

Send copy of this order to the Solicitor General, the City Civil Registrar of the City of Manila, petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines. March 18, 2002.

(Sgd.) AIDA RANGEL ROQUE
Judge

(PDI-May 15, 22 & 29, 2002)

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Notice is given by Myrna Salumbides wife of Boanerges E. Salumbides holder of Bacnotan Cement shares of Stock Cert. Nos. 12370 & 18338 were lost which as acknowledge before Notary Public Perfecto Sotoridona Jr. with PTR No. 08763620 01-24-02 Pasig.
(PDI-May 22, 29 & June 5,2002)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

CRISOLOGO CAPILI CABRERA

General Manager of CRC Enterprises

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Sunday, May 26, 2002 at the age of 55.

His loving wife **Raquel**; son **Gerald**; daughters **Josephine** & **Cristine Joie**; mother **Nelia**; brothers and sister **Eduardo, Enone** & **Oscar**; relatives and friends mourn his passing and request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mahinhin corner Mayumi Streets, UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 30, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 9:00 AM Masss at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

Our Dearly Beloved Pappy

Ernesto S. Magboo

has peacefully joined his Creator on May 28, 2002
at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Ofelia Castillo-Magboo**; children **Ding & Yoko Shiozaki, Leah & Danny Francisco, Gerry, Ana & Paulo Ortañez, Angelito, Corny & Chona Caedo**; grandchildren **Mayu & Vicente, Diego, Annika & Sofia**; mother **Consorcia Saguin-Magboo**; sisters **Lily Ramos & Belen Ylagan**; brother **Nelson**; in-laws **Mario Ramos, Cesar Ylagan & Zaida Magboo**; nieces and nephews.

His body lies in state at Chapel I of St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel in Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Daily masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m. every evening.

Interment will be on Sunday June 2, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

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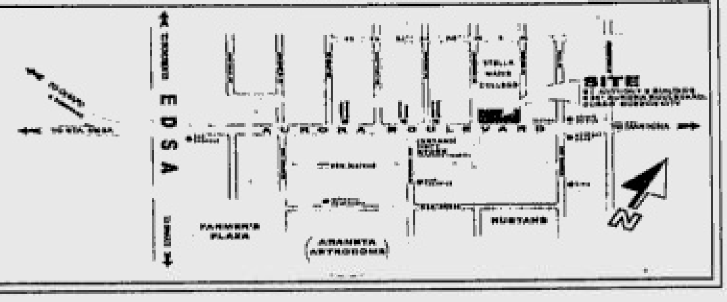

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Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites direct Internet Service Providers ISP to a public bidding for the **PROVISION OF 128 kbps or DSL INTERNET SERVICES CONNECTION** on **June 21, 2002** at exactly 2:00 PM Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instructions are available during office hours at the MIS Division, Second Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Request for Clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before **June 7, 2002** at 2:00 PM thru Telephone No. 927-2731 or Fax No. 927-2698.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and Chairman,
Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI – May 28, 29 & 30, 2002)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN LUZON
164 13th Street, Port Area, Manila
Tel (02) 301 9576 to 79, Fax (02) 527-4790

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested parties with capitalization of not less than P30,000,000.00 are invited to apply for pre-qualification and, if pre-qualified to bid for the

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Issuance of Bid Documents	May 29–June 7, 2002
Pre-bid Conference	June 14, 2002
Submission of Bid Documents	Not later than 5:00 PM August 8, 2002
Opening of Qualification Documents	2:00 PM, August 9, 2002
Opening of Technical Proposals	2:00 PM, August 22, 2002
Opening of Financial Proposals	2:00 PM, August 29, 2002

Bid documents may be secured upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 exclusive of VAT, at the Port District Office of Southern Luzon at the above address. The venue for all activities shall be at the Port District Office of Southern Luzon.

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereat, waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **HECTOR E. MIOLE**
Port District Manager

(PDI--May 29, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR NFA SUGAR BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) among all interested buyers at NFA Central Office, Boardroom, 10/F, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, for the sale of local and imported refined sugar, particulars as follows:

WITHDRAWAL PERIOD	VOLUME (In Lkg.)
JUNE	125,000 Lkg.
JULY	125,000 Lkg.
AUGUST	125,000 Lkg.
SEPTEMBER	125,000 Lkg.
COLOR (ICUMSA Units) max	45 (Imported) 100 (Local)
INDICATIVE PRICE	P1,200 per Lkg.
BID BOND	5% of the total price offer
PERFORMANCE BOND	10% of the bid price in the form manager's/cashier's check or thru irrevocable Letter of Credit
AUCTION DATES	31 May 2002 (5 June 2002 in case of failure or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 PM

Bid documents will be available on 30 May 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. The same terms and conditions set during the last May 9 and 15, 2002 SMDP shall still be used, copies of which can be secured starting 30 May 2002 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Directorate for Marketing Operations (Operations and Coordinations Division), 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City or may contact at Telephone No. 712-1572.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, waive any informality thereof and accept only such bids as are advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI--May 23 & 29, 2002)

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INQUIRER

TRIVIA

By **BONG BARRAMEDA**

Sad sack

Q. Why does the express "to get the sack" (or "to be sacked") mean to be dismissed from employment or, as is commonly said, to be fired?

A. There are a number of theories. One belief is that the Turkish sultan, when he lost interest in one of his harem, would have her put into a sack and tossed into the sea. Another theory involved British workmen, especially in textile mills, who were provided their own tools, which they brought to work in a sack. Being told to get the sack, therefore, was a disguised notice of dismissal – "get your tools and go." It was also thought that tools apart, an employer, to rid himself of an unsatisfactory worker, would simply hand him an empty sack. In Spanish, the verb *sacar* means "to dismiss," which is also a possible source.

Take a Tip. Can't find your plunger? Try one of these remedies to unclog your sink: 1. Bail the water out, then pour lots of boiling water down the drain; 2. Cup your palm over the clogged drain and "squoosh" it up and down until the sink clears; 3. Shove a hose down the drain as far as it will go. Then attach it to a faucet and turn the water on full blast for just a second or two. Bail out the sink if necessary and repeat.

Past Forward. This day in 1936: Two Filipino aviators, Antonio Arnaiz and Juan Calvo, took off from Manila to begin a historic flight to Madrid, Spain, on an old, patched-up plane. They winged their way through fogs and blizzards across seas and mountains, and reached the Spanish capital on June 11.

WORD WATCH

Aviaphile (ay vee ay file) : one who loves to fly planes or just to ride in them.

PDI -- May 29, 2002

Japan big business groups merge

TOKYO—Japan's two biggest business groups merged on Tuesday to give member companies more clout with the government at a difficult time for the economy and swiftly poured cold water on government optimism that a revival was in sight.

Hiroshi Okuda took the helm of the newly formed Japan Business Federation, created from the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), which he had chaired, and the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

With the combining of the two influential lobbies, Okuda's macroeconomic and other policy suggestions should carry more weight with the government as it tries to revive an economy struggling to emerging from its deepest postwar recession.

"As Economics Minister (Heizo) Takenaka said in declaring a recovery, some indicators are improving. Given this assessment, I think it is right to assert that there will be no further worsening in the economy," said Okuda, who is also the chair of Japan's biggest automaker, Toyota Motor Corp.

"However, we still have the problem of jobs, and consumption has yet to see much recovery. We are still seeing many weak indicators such as machinery orders, capital spending and housing starts," he told reporters in a group interview.

The Japanese government earlier in May officially declared the economy past its worst, upgrading its view of conditions for a third month and bolstering hopes Japan was running alongside the United States toward a recovery.

But Okuda said Japan still needs to revamp taxation and social welfare structures to help the economy regain its footing.

"We can't be very optimistic about the economic realities right now," he said.

The new business lobby so far has 1,534 member firms and industry groups, covering almost all listed firms.

The government welcomed the group's creation.

"In the past, Keidanren held the power to push Japan's economy forward, but its role has changed slightly. Now its role is to suggest policies to the government, from the viewpoint of national interest, not only a business point of view," top government spokesperson Yasuo Fukuda told reporters on Tuesday.

"I welcome that, and I hope the new Keidanren will contribute in that way," he said.

Okuda, asked about current levels of the dollar against the yen, reiterated his view that a dollar rate of between 110 and 120 yen would be a reasonable level for Japanese exporters. *Reuters*

TOKYO money dealers sport Japan soccer shirts as they conduct foreign exchange trading beneath a dollar quotation board flashing the current yen rate. The 2002 World Cup Finals begin in Korea and Japan May 31.

REUTERS

Poll shows Japanese growth roaring ahead

TOKYO—Japan's economy probably grew at its fastest pace in two years in the first quarter of 2002, even outpacing growth the United States, but economists said any recovery would be short lived unless capital expenditure revived.

Japan's economy shrank for three straight quarters to the end of 2001, but could show annualized growth of even up to 9.8 percent in the first three months of 2001, a Reuters poll showed.

The poll of 26 economists and think tanks produced a median average forecast of 1.5 percent growth for January-March compared with the previous quarter, an annualized growth rate of 6.2 percent.

That would beat the US annualized growth rate of 5.6 percent for the same quarter.

Economists said capital expenditure remained the wild card, and forecasts would probably have to be updated after the Ministry of Finance announces its capex survey for the quarter two days before GDP figures are released on June 7.

Underscoring the uncertainty, forecasts for GDP growth for the quarter ranged from 0.1 to 2.4 percent. On an annualized basis, forecasts ran from 0.3 percent to 9.8 percent.

All those polled forecast growth, however, meaning Japan's deepest recession of the post-war era has come to an end.

Economists cited personal consumption and recovering exports as the key drivers, saying the data would confirm the government view that the world's second largest economy has hit the bottom.

Many, though, are doubtful about the quality of the recovery.

"So what if we have a good figure for now?" said Yasushi Okada, economist at Credit Suisse First Boston. "Some people find them (GDP figures) surprising, but they really shouldn't."

Okada, noting that domestic demand remained fragile, particularly capital spending, said it would be wrong to view the figures as a gauge of the real and future state of the economy.

Adding his own cautious view, Finance Minister Masajuro Shioakwa said on Tuesday he was not very optimistic about January-March GDP, although he did not elaborate.

Kenji Arata, economist at MCM Asia-Pacific, said he expected 1.9 percent growth for January-March, mainly because household spending data—the main data the government uses to calculate private consumption—had been strong.

"But economic fundamentals are not strong enough to sustain this kind of high growth," Arata added.

Economists expect 1.7 percent quarter-on-quarter rise in private consumption, which accounts for some 55 percent of GDP, in January-March, according to the poll.

Despite some improvement in consumer sentiment, consumption is expected to be weak as job and income conditions are likely to remain tough in coming months due to aggressive restructuring efforts by corporate Japan. *Reuters*

Mitsubishi Motors recruits top Ford official into board

TOKYO - Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp., which has been struggling to win back sales under a partnership with DaimlerChrysler AG of Germany, has recruited Ford Japan head Eiji Iwakuni as a board member.

Iwakuni's addition to the board marks the first time in the Mitsubishi's 30-year history that it has headhunted an executive from a rival automaker, Mitsubishi said Tuesday.

The appointment will become official after a June 25 shareholders' meeting. Iwakuni replaces Hiroshi Yajima, who is retiring.

Before heading Ford Japan in 1998, Iwakuni, 60, was with Japan's No. 2 automaker Honda Motor Co., where he was credited with strengthening Honda dealerships.

Mitsubishi Motors' sales in Japan have slipped since the automaker disclosed in mid-2000 that it had been hiding auto defects for decades to avoid expensive recalls.

In fiscal year 2001, Mitsubishi Motors' Japan sales fell by about 8 percent. A year earlier, they dropped by 15 percent. *AP*

IMF raises 2002 Thai growth forecast to 3.2%

BANGKOK—The International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday it had raised its forecast for 2002 Thai economic growth to 3.2 percent from 2.7 percent, bringing it closer to government projections and analysts' expectations.

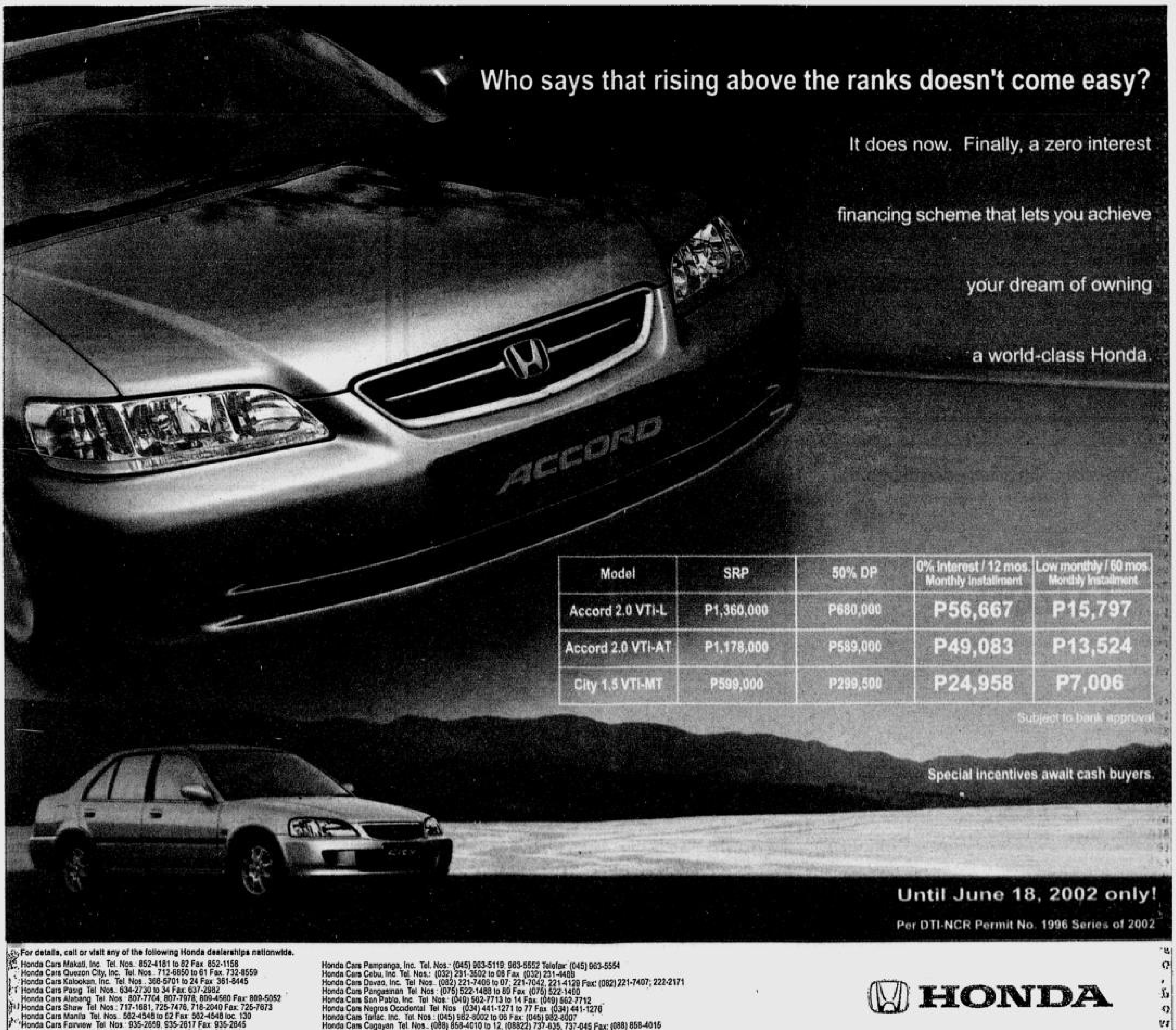
Alessandro Zanello, division chief at the IMF's Asia-Pacific section, told a news conference in Bangkok that the Fund had also raised its 2003 Thai growth projection, to 3.6 percent from 3.5.

Thailand's finance ministry expects the gross domestic product to expand 3.6 percent in 2002, while the central bank has forecast growth of 2.5 to 3.5 percent.

The Thai economy expanded just 1.8 percent in 2001. Government officials and analysts have progressively raised their forecasts for 2002 due to signs the economy was recovering faster than initially expected.

"The sources of growth are a largely improved external environment, very good news coming out of the rest of the world and the region, as well as a strengthening of domestic demand, notwithstanding some fiscal withdrawal over the course of the year," Zanello said.

"We see potential for investment to become broad-based and consumption to be powerful." *Reuters*



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City 1.5 VTi-MT	P599,000	P299,500	P24,958	P7,006

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Honda Cars Manila Tel. Nos.: 562-4546 to 62 Fax: 562-4546 loc. 130
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HONDA

At work, are men from Mars, women from Venus?

NEW ORLEANS—ASTD International Conference & Exposition 2002—Believers of author John Gray's dictum that "men are from Mars and women are from Venus" will be disappointed to find out that in the workplace, behavior of men and women do not differ.

At least, this is the finding of Inscape Publishing, a leading developer of behavioral tools. Their research data seriously question society's gender-based stereotypes of men and women's behavior in the workplace and provides a basis for understanding international workforce behavior.

Dimensions

Inscape Publishing, an international publisher of research-based learning instruments, has found through its DiSC® research that the self-reported behaviors of men and women in the workplace do not differ across the DiSC scale's four dimensions: Dominance, Influence, Supportiveness and Conscientiousness. Inscape's DiSC instrument, which has been validated internationally, reveals that the mean scores of women and men on each of the dimensions are almost equal. In other words, there are just as many women exhibiting Dominance behavior, as there are men. Similarly, there are as many men with high Supportiveness dimensions, as there are women.

Predictor

"When it comes to the workplace, gender is not a good predictor of behavioral style," says Jeffrey Sugerman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Inscape Publishing.

"The data from DiSC tell us that rather than encouraging a gender dichotomy, training and development professionals can best help a workforce be effective and productive by focusing on understanding the individual person and how that person's behaviors best relate to the styles of others."

The DiSC instrument is a self-directed, self-scoring behavioral tool with scientific validity and reliability. It began with a theory of human behavior advanced in the 1920s by American psychologist William Moulton Marston. Inscape Publishing used Marston's work as the foundation for further research and ultimately created the Personal Profile System®, a DiSC tool that has been used for nearly three decades by more than 40 million people worldwide. Today, the DiSC tool is available in 17 languages.

Model

According to the DiSC model, every individual possesses a combination of four behavioral dimensions. Typically, one dimension is more prominent than the others. The four dimensions are:

- Dominance: direct and decisive

D's are strong-willed, strong-minded people who like accepting challenges, taking action and getting immediate results.

- Influence: optimistic and outgoing

I's are "people" people who like participating in teams, sharing ideas and energizing and entertaining others.

- Supportiveness: sympathetic and cooperative

S's are helpful people who like working behind the scenes, performing in consistent and predictable ways and being good listeners.

- Conscientiousness: concerned and correct

C's are sticklers for quality and like planning ahead, employing systematic approaches and checking and re-checking for accuracy.

"DiSC is a universal language—a way of exploring behavioral issues, not only between genders but also across cultures, in a non-judgmental manner," says Sugerman.

"When individuals are allowed to assess their behavioral styles and then adapt them for various situations, the results are more productive teams, more effective managers, a higher level of customer service and less frustration and conflict."

Inscape Publishing, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., is an international publisher of research-based learning instruments that improve individual and organizational performance. For more information about Inscape Publishing, visit *www.inscapepublishing.com*.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Working mom wants to pursue career growth

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM glad to find your column in the "INQUIRER." It is a sort of refuge for "anxious people at work" where we can air our concerns and hope for feedback on different job matters. I would like to share my anxiety with you.

I graduated with a bachelor's course in Physical Therapy in 1997 and up to now, I have not taken the Board exams. I got married in 1998 and have had three kids in my three years of marriage. So, studying for the board and taking the exam became less and less a priority. I also had brief employment experiences with other companies that are not in line with my course: one as a telemarketer (which I enjoyed immensely, too) and one as document analyst in an IT company.

In 2000, I acquired a job in a company as Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant, and I must admit that I enjoy my job in the office. I even mastered my computer skills with so much ease and without formal training. I also enjoy working with my boss and co-workers. I also am getting good pay in my present employment which suffices to address our financial needs even if my husband is jobless. Since I feel that I have already changed "course" in my employment, I am thinking of getting an MBA this coming school year to gain more knowledge in management and administration. I would like to improve my status. I am 28 now and I hope to make more than my current salary. I don't want to be 30 and stagnate in this position.

However, I am also thinking of going abroad to practice my PT profession and of course, to earn more. I worry about the time when the children will go to school. My present income may not see them through. What more if the children are studying? If I am to take the board, I will have to take a refresher course, which will require more money for education. If I pursue an MBA degree, I only have to pay less than P1,000 for nine units in a state university near the office and our house.

Another thing, my children are aged three years old and below. I don't want them to be without a mother until after their period of development, until they are six years old. I believe that they need a mother's guidance in the formative years more than they would need me for the rest of their lives. Then, if I have the resources to study BS Information Technology, I would love to. But, this option is more of a dream than a reality. Please shed some light on my confused state. I want to achieve more than what I have achieved today.

Confused Working Mom

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

From your letter, I can sense that you have a high achievement orientation. Coupled with your love and need to take care of the future of your children, you have the strong motivation to succeed. This, I am sure, will launch you forward in terms of career. Your current dilemma is what course to pursue to enable you to achieve your vision of ensuring that your children get a good future. Your choices are to finish the PT Board exams, take an MBA or a BS in Information Technology.

Criteria

In your letter, you have already outlined your decision criteria. The first is a course that you can afford to take, given your budget and the fact that you work a full eight-hour day. It is critical that you maintain your current enthusiasm and diligence at work to ensure a successful career. The second is your need to be beside your children while they are growing up. Personally, I am a great believer in the presence of parents during the growing up years of the children. But in my experience, this presence is equally valuable not only until they are six years old, but also at the adolescent age when children typically experience crisis. The third is the opportunity that further studies will ensure higher income in the future.

Options

Using your decision criteria as the screen then, let us look at each of your options. You mentioned that reviewing for the Board is not within your financial reach at present. Furthermore, if you leave for abroad, your family will suffer from your absence. Being an absentee parent can create problems that you may regret later. Instead of ensuring a bright future for the children, the opposite may happen. On the third criteria, going abroad will give you a dollar income and if spent in the Philippines, may be considerable in value.

Your second option is to pursue an MBA degree. You can afford it. You will continue to be around for your children as they grow up. Considering your drive and enthusiasm and ability to spot opportunities, your chances of improving your income is probable as you move up the career ladder.

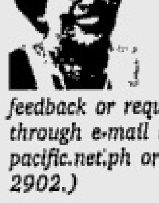
IT competency

The third option is taking a BS Information Technology course. My question is: can you learn the things on information technology without getting a formal degree ? Today, there are plenty of schools offering courses in information technology. Take your pick of classroom, web, tutorials. What you can do is talk to an expert who could clarify exactly what you need and pursue it. One of our consultants wanted to gain IT competency. Consulting an expert, he realized he did not need a doctoral degree to be good in a number of competencies to pursue his vision.

If I put myself in your place and given the decision process, I would pursue an MBA and request my current office to send me to short-term training courses to acquire the IT competencies I need, after talking to an expert friend.

Family vision

Then, see things in unity with your husband. Better still, develop your vision of your family together in terms of the future of the children. He may not have a job now. But continue to encourage him to pursue work that he is interested in. When a man does not have work, even if he does not admit it, the male ego suffers. So take care of your relationship. Wishing you only the best.



(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Possibilities can become realities

RECIPES *for* LEARNING
Moje Ramos Aquino

HERE is an old parable from the book "The Art of Possibility" by Rosamund Stone and Benjamin Zanders: The Monk's Story.

A monastery has fallen on hard times. It was once part of a great order which, as a result of religious persecution in the 17th and 18th centuries, lost all its branches. It was decimated to the extent that there were only five monks left in the mother house: the Abbot and four others, all of whom were over seventy. Clearly, it was a dying order.

Messiah

Deep in the woods surrounding the monastery was a little hut that the Rabbi from a nearby town occasionally used for a hermitage. One day, it occurred to the Abbot to visit the hermitage to see if the Rabbi could offer any advice that might save the monastery. The Rabbi welcomed the Abbot and commiserated. "I know how it is," he said, "The spirit has gone out of people. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore." So the Rabbi and the old Abbot wept together, and they read parts of the Torah and spoke quietly of deep things.

The time came when the Abbot had to leave. They embraced. "It has been wonderful being with you," said the Abbot, "but I have failed in my purpose for coming. Have you no piece of advice that might save the monastery?" "No, I am sorry," the Rabbi responded, " I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

Aura of respect

When the other monks heard the Rabbi's words, they wondered what possible significance they might have. "The Messiah is one of us? One of us here at the monastery? Do you suppose he meant the Abbot? Of course—it must be the Abbot, who has been our leader for so long. On the other hand, he might have meant Brother Thomas, who is certainly a holy man. Or could he have meant Brother Elrod, who is so crotchery? But then Elrod is very wise. Surely, he could not have meant Brother Philip—he's too passive. But then, magically, he's always there when you need him. Of course, he didn't mean me—yet supposing he did? Oh Lord, not me! I couldn't mean that much to you, could I?

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect, on the off chance that one of them might be the Messiah. And on the off chance that each monk himself might be the Messiah, they began to treat themselves with extraordinary respect.

New community

Because the forest in which it was situated was beautiful, people occasionally came to visit the monastery, to picnic or to wander along the old paths, most of which led to the dilapidated chapel. They sensed the aura of extraordinary respect that surrounded the five old monks, permeating the atmosphere. They began to come more frequently, bringing their friends, and their friends brought friends. Some of the younger men who came to visit began to engage in conversation with the monks. After a while, one asked if he might join. Then another, and another. Within a few years, the monastery became once again a thriving order, and—thanks to the Rabbi's gift—a vibrant, authentic community of light and love for the whole realm.

Insights

Intrigued by the story? Let's discuss it. Please share with us your insights on and plans for self-leadership and send your answers by email or by snail mail. Add your questions to the list. Be creative, be playful and have fun.

1. What did you learn from the Monk's Story?

2. What did you learn about yourself by reading the Monk's Story?

3. Identify ways in which this story is relevant and significant to your own life.

4. What are you, or could be, excited about in your life right now? What is it that makes you happy? How does that make you feel?

5. What are you, or could be, proud about and grateful for in your life right now?

6. What are you, or could be, enjoying in your life right now?

7. What are you, or could be, committed to in your life right now?

8. Who do you love? Who loves you?

9. What are you looking forward to today? What will that give you?

10. What can you do right now that will take you into a positive state of mind and being?

11. How will today's plans and actions lead to more fulfillment of your vision, mission, values and goals?

12. What improvement in your behaviors, attitude, relationships, environment and other part of your life can you make today that will noticeably improve the quality of your life? How will it improve it?

13. What was good about yesterday? What made it good?

14. How do you know it is time to change?

15. How could you live today in order to create the tomorrow you are committed to?

16. What actions could you take today that will change your destiny? Which ones will you take? When do you intend to act on the others in your list?

It is best that you write your answers to these questions in a notebook or learning journal. Likewise, get a learning buddy and share your answers and questions. No arguments. All answers are accepted. The power to change your answers, attitudes and behaviors is all yours.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

Is success...

(From page B14)

seem to be shrinking. (If you're a man, the shirt collars don't button.)

2. You drink more than two or three cups of coffee a day.

3. You car is littered with McDonalds, KFC and Taco Bell wrappers.

4. You feed your pets and plants better than you feed yourself.

5. Before you phone a friend or business acquaintance, you plan an excuse as to why you can't get together with them soon.

6. Your "must read" pile is more than a foot tall.

7. You subscribe to the morning newspaper but don't unwrap it. Corollary: You subscribe to magazines and don't read them.

8. You go to bed feeling tired and wake up feeling tired.

9. Your spouse, significant other or children are nagging about not having enough time with you. And that makes you angry.

10. Your voice mailbox is frequently full.

11. There never seems to be enough time—and you hate waiting in lines.

12. You put five or six errands into every drive across town.

13. All your friends are work-related friends. All your social gatherings are work-related.

14. You have physical symptoms you can't explain or a nagging health problem that won't go away.

15. You guide every moment with checklists and feel guilty if you're not doing something "productive." You don't do things without a "purpose."

16. You haven't had a two-week vacation in more than five years.

17. Exercise is last on your list of "to dos." As a result, it's often forgotten.

18. You can't understand why anyone would want to drink a beverage like water.

19. You rush across town to do Tai Chi, then rush back.

20. You forget things. Important details fall through the cracks.

21. You spend weekends organizing your stuff.

22. TV Guide is the last good book you've read.

23. You're hotheaded in traffic.

24. You take over-the-counter drugs to control headaches, rather than eliminating the cause of the headaches.

25. You have business and home phones, a fax number, pager number, mobile number and an e-mail address. Perhaps even an Internet web site. This list could go on endlessly—and one person's stress is another person's happiness.

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e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

What do you do for writer's block at work?

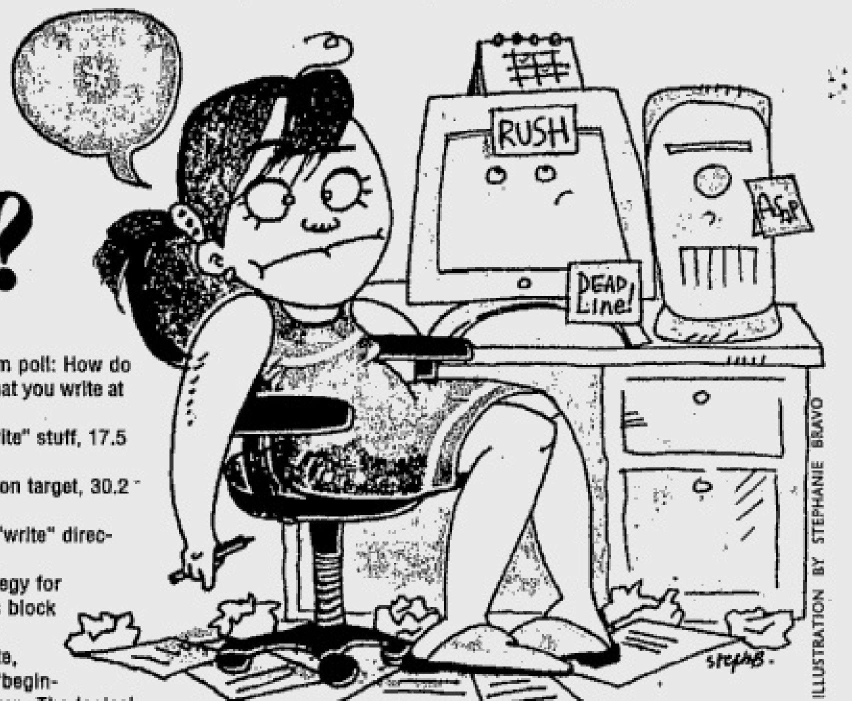
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

DEAR WW: I have to write a lot for my job—reports, memos, etc. I spend more time than I'd like to admit just staring at my blank computer screen. Can you tell me some tricks for getting over writer's block?

No Words For How I Feel

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

I know what you mean. I sometimes get so frustrated looking at my blank computer screen that I just want to toss stuff at it. And whenever I think of tossing stuff, I think of Uncle Fred. Fred was a PT boat captain during the war so my dad invited him aboard for the maiden voyage of his new boat.

We'd barely pulled away from the dock when Fred ran to the back of the boat and tossed his cookies over the side. Later, he told us that that was the way he'd begun every boat ride throughout his entire Navy career.

I guess Fred had no choice about sailing; tossing was his only option. But for us land-based workers whose nemesis is the computer rather than the ocean, there are alternatives—and Susan Benjamin's book, "Words at Work: Business Writing in Half the Time with Twice the Power" (Addison Wesley, 1997), is full of them. It's a great resource for anyone whose job involves writing. I've adapted the tips below from it.

How much are you reading? Reading is the fuel of great writing. It doesn't have to be Chaucer—unless you're working with a bunch of really old British companies. Search out great writing on topics that interest you.

Can you keep in shape by writing e-mail, letters, etc.? I get a lot of e-mail. Although it takes time to answer each one, I've found that it's a great way to keep my writing muscles buffed.

What are you trying to say? Ms. Benjamin believes that you can kick-start the writing process by making a list of the key points you want to make. Don't worry about making them full sentences. Simple words or phrases should be enough to get you started.

Is your work space writing-friendly? For most people writing and cubicles don't mix. That's why, back in my old corporate days, I learned the location of every conference room in the building. I needed places to go when I had something longer than a memo to write and needed peace and quiet.

Should you take a break? The writing muse can be a fickle beast. Sometimes it's necessary to just sit there and keep typing. However, there are times that a short break can get the synapses in your brain firing once again.

Do you warm up? Just as athletes need to warm up before they compete, writers need to warm up before tackling a new writing project. Try pushing the new project aside for a moment and start by rereading or rewriting something you've previously written for work.

Follow these tips and you'll throw up some great writing on that blank screen of yours.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: How do you rate the things that you write at work?

—Lacking the "write" stuff, 17.5 percent

—Always "write" on target, 30.2 percent

—Pointed in the "write" direction, 52.1 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with writer's block at work comes from Lauren D. in Lafayette, CA. "Beware of the 'beginning, middle, end' trap. The logical mind both serves and obstructs. So start with whatever intrigues you. Eat dessert first. Then, see what comes next. Later, your rational mind can elaborate and organize everything just so. Hey, remember, you're on a computer."

(Rosner's fans are in for a treat this August. He will be coming to Manila to conduct the following seminars: 12 Steps to Better Bossing and Working Wounded Survival Guide. Call tel. no. 414-0186 for details.)

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Is success killing you?

By William S. Frank

DO you believe that too much success can kill you? It's not the success itself that's harmful, but the self-denial it takes to get there that's the problem. Without balance, success can be short-lived. There are many successful people who suffer from life-threatening illnesses because they achieved prominence but forgot to take care of themselves along the way. High-achieving people often nurture everyone but themselves.

Here are 25 indicators of high stress. Review this list, and put a checkmark beside any items that apply to you. If you find yourself checking more than five or six, it may be time to alter your career to reduce your stress level:

1. When your clothes come back from the dry cleaner, they

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LIFESTYLE

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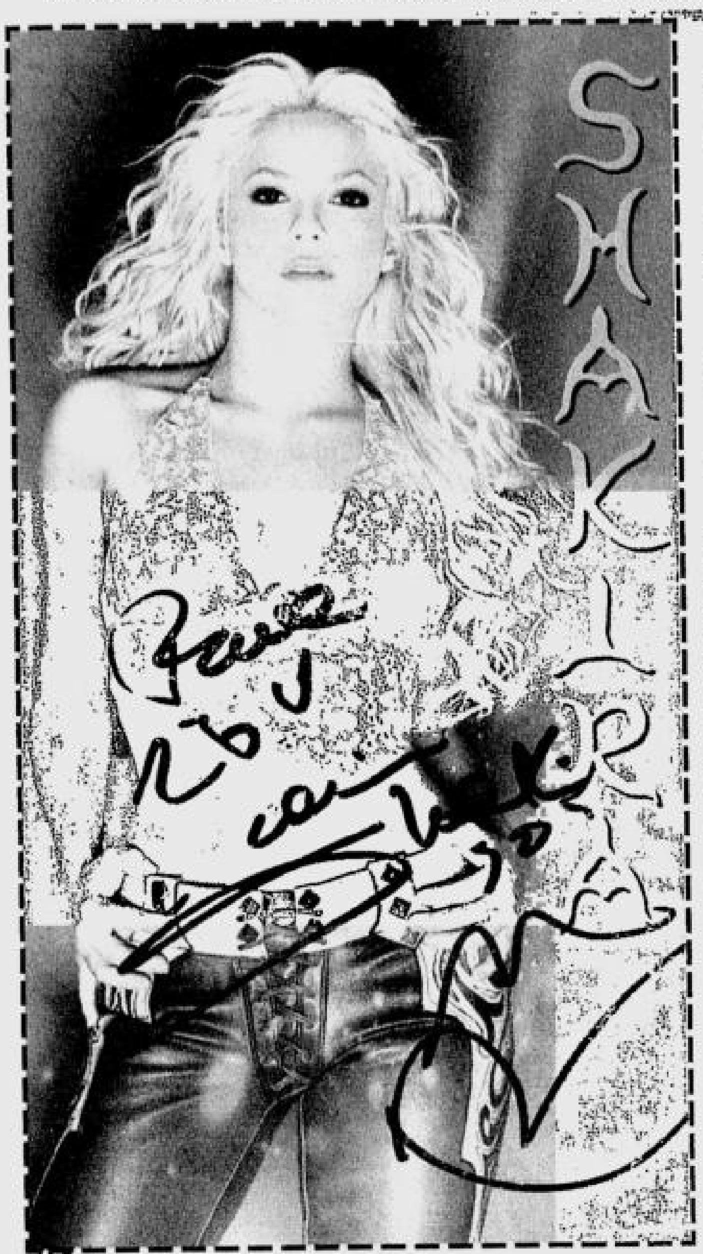
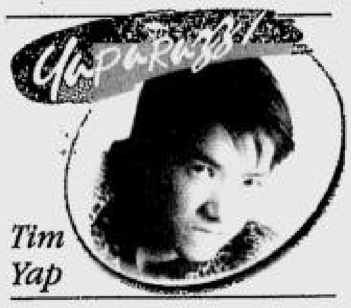


CLIP AND SAVE!
Exclusive for 2bU! readers, an autographed copy of Shakira's album cover "Laundry Service" under Sony Music

Underneath Shakira's clothes



Tim Yap

BANGKOK—Enter this generation's latest pop icon. **Shakira**, the Latin singing sensation whose name means "the graceful one," has sold millions of records worldwide, won a couple of Grammys, and successfully crossed over to the American market with her distinct sound and her now fully blonde locks. She is now a certified global superstar. All at the weathered old age of 24.

She wrote her first song at 8 and, at 13, she signed her first recording contract with Sony Records Colombia and released her first album called "Magic." From there, it seemed, indeed, like a magical prophecy into the musical kingdom. After high school, she decided to concentrate on her career and came out with more Latin pop rock records, which established her bright, new world as Shakira, the star—the stuff of Latin American legend. It also helps that her manager is **DeMann**, who has also managed **Madonna** and **Michael Jackson**.

Born Shakira Mebarak Ripoll, this breakthrough artist who grew up in the coastal city

UNDERNEATH/ p.C2

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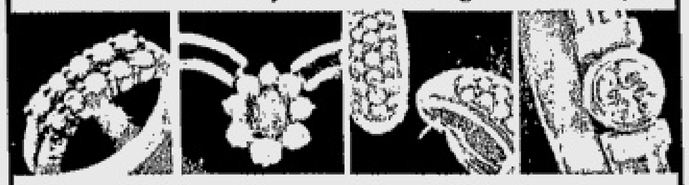

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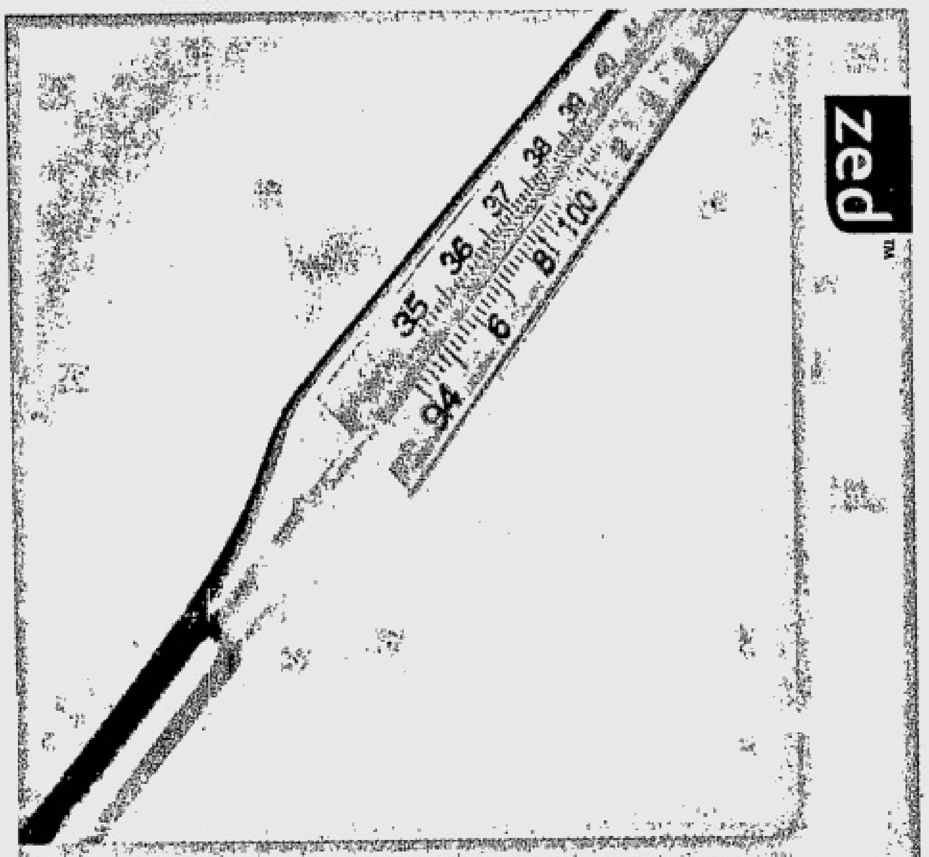

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LOGO GOALIE3
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LOGO KICKOFF2
STRIKER
LOGO STRIKER
Italia 2002
LOGO ITALIA1
Italia
LOGO ITALIA2
KOREA JAPAN
LOGO KORJAP
LOGO SCORE
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PIC WIN
GO FOR GOAL!!
PIC GOGOAL
CUP OF LIFE.
PIC CUPLIFE
PIC FUTBOL1
PIC FUTBOL2
FOOTBALL
PIC FUTBOL3
PIC FUTBOL4
PIC FUTBOL5
PIC FUTBOL6
PIC FUTBOL7

New ring tones:

Police Siren	zed	TONE SIREN
Burping Sound	zed	TONE BURP
Dog Barking	zed	TONE DOGBARK
Horn Blowing	zed	TONE HORNBLOW
Machine Gun Fire	zed	TONE MACHINE
Vommit Sound	zed	TONE VOMMIT
Worms	zed	TONE WORMS
Halo	zed	TONE HALO
Maxpayne	zed	TONE MAXPAYNE
Rthrophy	zed	TONE RTHROPHY

Top ten ring tones:

Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
Superman'	Five for Fighting	TONE SUPERMANS
One More Try	A1	TONE 1MORETRY
So Young	The Corrs	TONE SOYOUNG
What Can I Do	The Corrs	TONE WATCANIDO
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Macho Guwapito	Rico Puno	TONE MACHO
Heaven By Your Side	A1	TONE HEAVENBY
Everytime	A1	TONE EVERYTIME
Kahit Kailan	South Border	TONE KAHITKLAN

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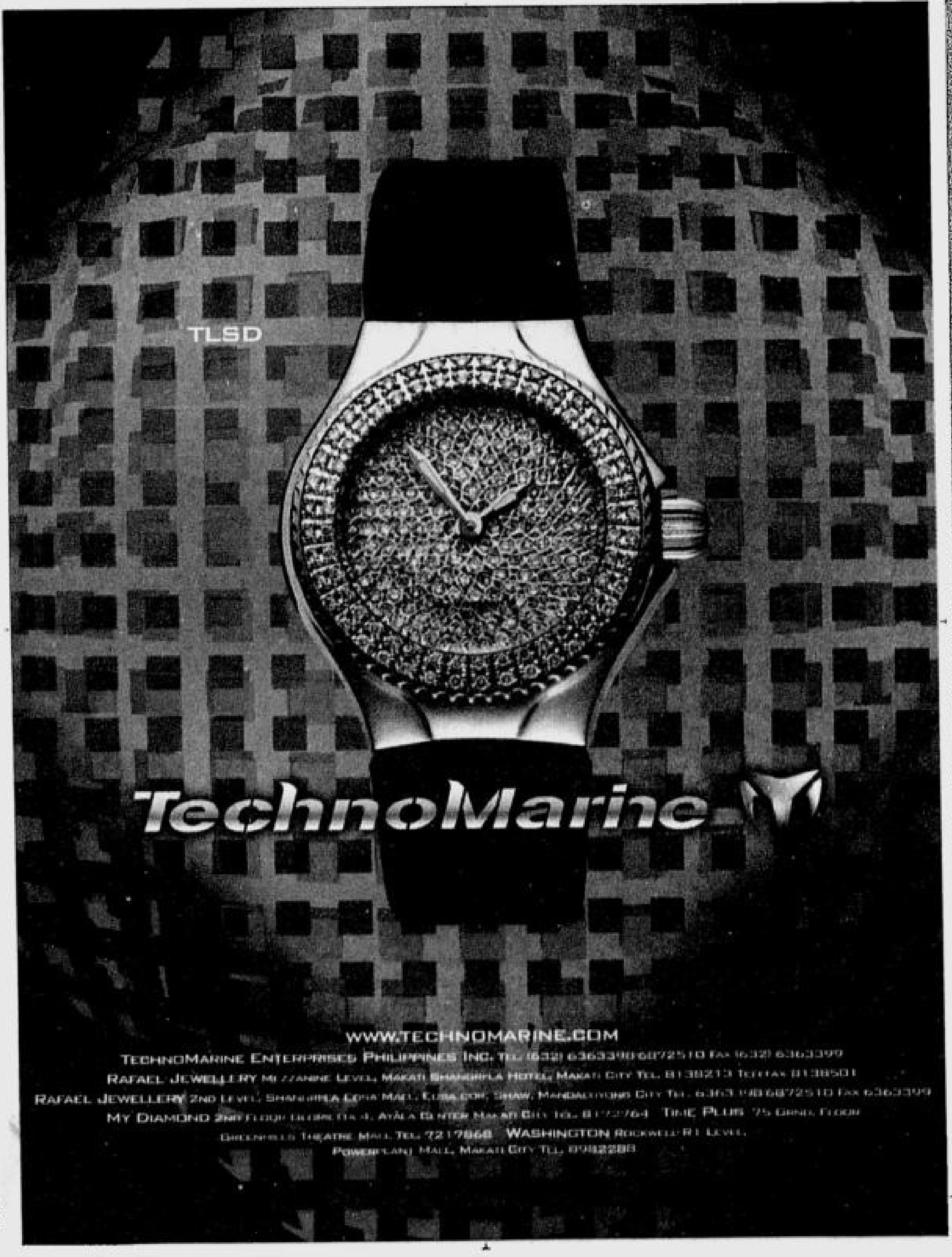

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Powerplant Mall, Makati City Tel. 8982288

SHAKIRA LIVE! Onstage, she has that "it" factor that's so hard to define.

WHENEVER, WHEREVER. The Latin pop sensation always gets her way.

CHILL MODE. At her hotel room at the Peninsula Bangkok after the interview

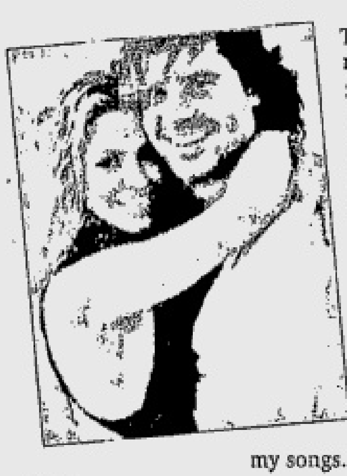
TIM YAP

The Colombian Madonna (or is it Britney Spears?) has scored a crossover success. Even Gabriel Garcia Marquez is impressed

Underneath Shakira's clothes

From page C1

of Barranquilla, Colombia is making waves, getting extensive airplay on MTV and getting a prized Pepsi endorsement. Even her Nobel Prize-winning countryman, **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**, has raved about her: "Shakira's music has a personal stamp that doesn't sound like anyone else's and no one can sing or dance like her, at whatever age, with such innocent sensuality, one that seems to be her own invention."



WITH CONTROVERSIAL boyfriend, Antonio dela Rúa of Argentina

Yes, this girl gets her way. In a Teen magazine cover shoot, she refused to wear what the editors got for her, only starting the shoot once her preferred clothes came. In another instance, her record company wanted to hire veteran Latin songstress **Gloria Estefan** to write for her latest album, "Laundry Service." She refused.

Diva? Not really. In an interview with Yaparazzi, she admitted to being a little bit stubborn. "You have to be a bit of that to succeed—you have to guard your own interests. The only way I can make music is to be behind my songs. I am the captain of my own ship."

Breath of fresh air

The perfect example of that stubbornness is seen in her video, "Underneath Your Clothes," directed by **Herb Ritts**, in that scene where a reporter hounds and asks her, "What's it like to crossover and sing in English?" To which she answers in full Spanish.

SHAKIRA
LAUNDRY SERVICE

The reporter is rattled as she goes on and on in her native tongue. "In English!" he shouts, but Shakira leaves him. Classic Shakira—which is actually the secret of her global success. It is a mix of solid ethnic rooting (Colombian mom and Lebanese dad—which also explains her Middle Eastern-inspired sound)—and full trust in her own instincts. "I like to experiment," she said, "combine elements and put it together to come up with my own sound." She believes that songs can be translated from one tongue to the next without changing its essence.

"My songs are very personal, all my emotions based on real life—my own life." The result—lyrics about her breasts, "Lucky that my breasts are small and humble so you won't confuse them with mountains," from her hit song "Whenever, Wherever," and more. With all the bubble-gum pop around, Shakira's honesty and irreverence are a breath of fresh air.

She then shifts to her very controversial love life. The whole world knows she is engaged to **Antonio dela Rúa**, the son of the former Argentinean president **Fernando dela Rúa**. This topic causes such a stir that in Argentina, Shakira's albums are banned because of this association.

Despite that, she remains headstrong. "Love is a big inspiration for my songs. A lot of it is dedicated to love and to celebrate its existence." She recalls her past experiences, and says that before her songs were full of angst. "I used to complain a lot about men."

"Before we encounter true love, we get false descriptions of what love can be. We try to imagine the nature of what love can be. And only when we face it and open our heart to it—only then will our perception change," she says with a certain glow, like her lover was just beside her. "It changes everything. It changed the way I live and write about my music."

Blond ambition

All about love? "So why the title 'Laundry Service'?" asks Pulp editor **Vernon Go**. To which she replies, "In the one and a half year it took for me to put this album together, I wanted to dedicate it to my encounter with first love. Just like soap and water, it has a cleansing power." Good—now that dispels any notion that she lost "it" at a laundromat.

She speaks with that distinct Latina *lambing* that is so endearing, very natural, nothing put on. Think **Thalia** without the orgasmic outbursts and excessive pouting. Or **Mariah** without the vocal calisthenics and booty bouncing. At first glance, she strikes you with her presence, but as soon as she talks, she warms up and comes across as very sincere.

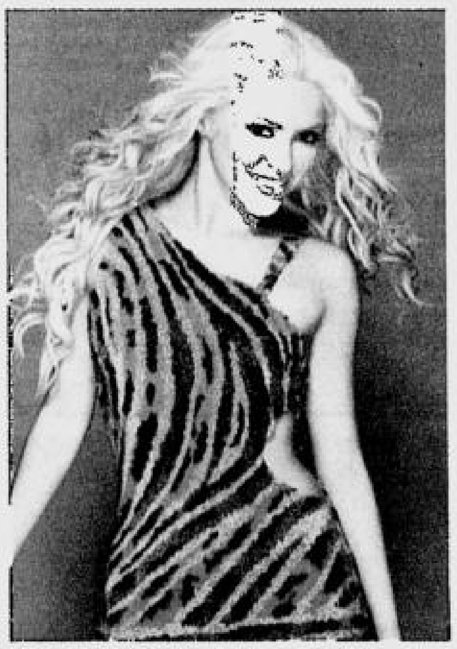
"I was born and raised in Colombia, but I listened to bands like the Cure, Led Zeppelin, The Police, The Beatles and Nirvana. I play rhythmic guitar but I have a drummer's soul. Yet I'm a good Catholic girl who grew up in a nun's school—which is not at all in conflict with my being sensual." She is nostalgic about punk, loves vintage clothes, boots and pants, yet hates shopping. "I like reading more. I'd rather paint, stay at home and watch the ocean," explains this singer-songwriter who thrives on contradictions.

How does she feel when people compare her to **Britney** or **Christina**? The comparison has heightened after she shocked people when she dyed her hair blonde, just before her American debut. "I just wanted to change. It's fun to metamorphose yourself every time you can. Many people think I went blonde to capture an Anglo market, which is not true. It's not a matter of pleasing people, but pleasing myself."

So what's her ultimate dream? After all the success she has accomplished in life, what's next? "Making music is what I'm designed for, but I'm also meant to love and be loved. Someday I'd love to be a good wife and mother, then grandmother, and if I can combine it with my music, then I'll be the luckiest girl."

ONE DAY IN BANGKOK. At the Sony conference being welcomed by Thai dancers

TIM YAP



NO POP TART. She's the real thing.

YAPARAZZI'S day with Shakira

What to do with a dead end hairdo

911
Kinny Salas

MY 10-year high school reunion is up next month. On the fifth year, my batchmates told me in a not-so-subtle way I was stuck in a time warp. Although it was nice that I pretty much maintained my weight, they were laughing that my hairdo was still chin to shoulder length bob.

My face is so narrow and my hair is really thin, so even the hairdresser tells me this is the only style for me. I even have to keep the length at this certain range. I tried bangs once just to be different, but my family cracked up. If I grow it past my shoulder, my face looks longer and my hair looks even more pathetically thin.

Right now, the only variation is longer layers to add body, but it still looks like a one-length bob. How can I make my hair thicker? I don't have falling hair or anything. I was just born with this hair. Do protein packs work or are there vitamins I can take? I have also tried every thickening shampoo in the market, but my hair became hard to comb after a while so I stopped it.

DILEMMA DIANA

Those thickening shampoos make your hair appear thicker because they coat the strands. The drawback is the one you have experienced. The hair becomes harder to comb because of the build-up of products, so a sticky film forms and makes your hair lose shine and gets matte.

I have the same type of hair as you do, and I noticed that protein does wonders for the hair. Although it is good in a hair treatment pack, it is really best if you "eat" them. I am on a high-protein diet, and my hairdressers have noticed that my hair has gotten much thicker within two months. It must be true because my scalp does not get as sunburned as they used to, and my ponytail holders now stay with two loops instead of three. Protein-rich foods are cheese, meats, fish, fowls, pork, eggs and tofu. If weight gain is your concern, cut down on carbohydrates so you can eat more protein.

I limit my carbs for breakfast and not eat them for the rest of the day. A great hair supplement is zinc in tablet form, but the effects will show after long-term use of at least a year. It is said that hair becomes shiny and stronger as well as thicker.

As you don't have two months to spare for your reunion, why don't you change the part of your hair and have it highlighted or outright colored brown, auburn or even honey blonde. When I get stuck with a dead-end hairdo, I find that coloring will make such a big difference to my looks, and parting my hair different will somehow change the shape of my face.

In the meantime, start the hair-thickening procedure so you can eventually grow your hair and change style. I would suggest a long, layered cut for more body. A good hairdresser is crucial because layering is tricky.

* * *

I HAVE finished three boxes of Orlistat (generic name) already, and although I see results in the bathroom, I have only lost two pounds. Does this mean I got a fake product? I bought it in the drugstore so how can that be? Sometimes I don't even eat fatty food to speed up the process but still, such slow results. Please bring this to the company's attention.

DISGRUNTLED

This type of medicine is a lipase inhibitor. This means that it coats the stomach and prevents the fat we take in from being absorbed by the body. Let me make certain things clear:

- This only burns animal fat, so if you eat cake and ice cream this will not burn the fat from those. Sugar and carbohydrates, when not used up as energy, will turn into fat as well. As they are not animal fat, Orlistat won't get rid of them.
- This only burns the animal fat you ate after drinking the tablet, not the ones stored in your body. It helps you lose weight by not adding to your fat stores, so when you exercise your body will burn the stored fat after the carbo and sugar. So you would do well to cut down on carbs and eliminate sugar totally.
- If you don't eat food with animal fat on a certain meal, don't take Orlistat because it will have nothing to burn—waste of money.

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Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 31 May 2002
11:00AM - 9:00PM
Saturday, 1 June 2002
9:00AM - 5:00PM
Seminar:
Camelia-Dahlia-Emilia Room
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 31 May 2002
6:00PM - 7:30PM

CEBU
Fair:
Bohol Room, Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Sunday, 2 June 2002
9:00AM - 5:00PM
Seminar:
Leyte Room, Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
2:00PM - 3:30PM
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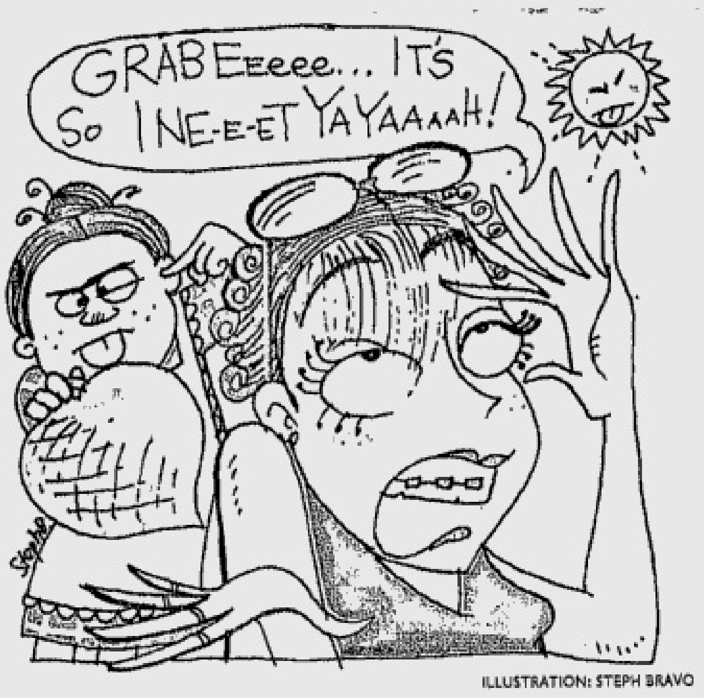
GRABEeeee... ITS So INE-E-ET YAYAAAAH!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Why people 'make tusok-tusok the fishballs' and all that

Coniotics 101: Deconstructing a hybrid language

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

"OUCH...*grabe*, it's so *init*! Like being made *sunog* in a microwave! *Manang*, can you make me *paypay* before I get *himatay* on the yucky ground? Please..."

Laugh all you want, but these days, more and more of the young (and old) are infected with this "coniotic language," a linguistic disease that unobtrusively spreads in certain parts of the metropolis, a mode of speaking that has been the subject of meticulously compiled jokes and forwarded e-mails, such as the quote above.

Spanish connection

Etymology-wise, the term *conio* is derived from the Spanish word for the female organ. Professor Rene Salvana, who teaches Spanish in the University of the East, said that in Spain, the term has evolved into a collection of bad expressions that connote animosity and vulgarity.

Perhaps this could be the reason why we use the term *coniotic* for people who code-switch from Tagalog to English and back in a melodramatic fashion. The grammar and the sentence structure from this hybrid "language" are far from praise-worthy—it is a language one would hardly use in job interviews if one wanted to be taken seriously. "Coniotics" is essentially used informally. It is at times characterized by a whiny or a pidgin ala-Doña-Victorina-de-Espadana accent.

Code-switching two languages can be very convenient; indeed, if coniotics were officially a language, it would have the easiest grammar to pick up. By simply joining the English verb "make" with the base form or repeating form of a Filipino verb, or by placing a Filipino word in an English sentence, by God, you are on your way to "making *tusok-tusok* the fishballs."

Greatest hits

For the most part, it is the students from private exclusive schools who popularized this linguistic trend. Common, and admittedly hilarious, are the times when we hear people say, "Can you just make *potpot* the car?" when talking to their drivers. Lunchtime conversations with their schoolmates may go like this: "*Grabe*, I made *iyak* so much when I made *lakwatsa* in Mega and saw 'Serendipity'!" Furthermore: "I'm like so *sawa na* with all those romantic movies. I want to go shopping *nga eh*, but my mommy made *putol* my credit card; *kakaasar debba*?"

The jeepney is also a great place to catch coniotic phrases. A girl who is not used to commuting cannot tell the driver "*Para*" to get off. She may say, "At the corner, *tigil*." Since the driver may not understand her, the girl will scream, "Stop *lang*, please!"

Even some teachers are catching the virus. While most make it a point to speak straight English or fluent Filipino, it is easy to make a slip when teachers are surrounded by people who constantly speak that way. Of course, one cannot forget the classics "Form a straight circle" or "Pass your assignment tomorrow—right now!" These are not strictly coniotic, but they are frowned upon in the academe either.

Parents, too, are not spared, it seems. I was speechless when my dad told me "You make *butas* the hole." I forget what that conversation was about; my mind was reeling that my own father would be speaking this way. However, when the situation sank in five minutes after, I had tears in my eyes from laughing so hard.

Hybrid theories

I could not really find a single reference on why many people speak that way. Nor could I find the accepted scientific term for it. But it is clear that it is the elite that largely employs this so-called dialect.

Arnold Alamon, an instructor at the Department of Sociology in UP Diliman, has an idea on how this came about. Its roots may be traced to as far back as the '70s and '80s, when there was a rising middle class. The upstart English-speaking nouveau riche soon became busier, consequently having to hire Tagalog-speaking maids to care for their kids. Since the English-speaking kids had to use local words to communicate to their yaya, they started speaking in a mixture of English and local language. When they went to exclusive schools, they infected others with their quaint speech. Familiarity and repetition, evidently, are very powerful in forming a language.

Alamon adds that there could be other factors as well. It could be an attempt of a generation to define itself, since the '70s and the '80s were decades of excess and, as such, it was important to have a place in the social hierarchy. The creation of a new way of speaking became the generation's means to show off their social status.

Whatever the causes may be, it is clear that no matter how irritating or amusing it may seem, coniotics connotes affluence. What may have started as a fad is now yet another indicator of the cultural and social rift, at least in the metropolis. Even respected newscasters and celebrities are known to use it. The "*jologs*" (hoi polloi) of society may laugh at and mimic them, but these coniotics-speaking people may not necessarily see themselves as linguistically disabled. Rather, they see it as an indicator of their socio-economic class; they may even deliberately speak this way; they don't bother to correct themselves.

In fact, it is interesting to see that among the coniotics group, there are the legitimate and the fake. The legitimate can see through the phony ones, although it might not be very obvious to the rest of us. Non-coniotics adopt the mode of speaking of the majority just to fit in. In the same manner, the coniotics may want to shift their ways, i.e., speak in straight Filipino, if the situation is turned around.

Real or not, coniotics is a product of societal relations. Language should technically be used by about a million people to pass as a language; but it is apparent that coniospeak has come to represent a small subculture.

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph or cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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'Spider-man's' music is full of depth and flavo

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

A MOVIE this big certainly has made its audience curious about its soundtrack. Both the movie and the soundtrack offer only a handful of familiar personalities. But even if the movie has been catapulted to great heights, its soundtrack sits on the wrong place.

The "Spider-man" soundtrack is a wholesome, ear-friendly rock album with lyrics that leave listeners pondering. It opens with the original '60s "Spiderman" theme song, then opens the curtains for Nickelback singer/guitarist Chad Kroeger's creation (specifically for the movie)—the hopeful, melodic rock ballad "Hero" featuring Saliva frontman Josey Scott—which is the album's most soulful track.

Albums that start off this good are usually a bit nerve-wracking. They could either receive hearty applause or its share of pelted tomatoes. Canadian punk band Sum41's single, "What We're All About," which has currently been roaming the airwaves, is a transition from its adrenaline-pumping mantra-chorus.

Though most of the bands featured on this 21-track album may not ring a bell, the sounds they generate are enough to motivate listeners to research on the Internet. Black Lab's "Learn to Crawl," Bleu's "Somebody Else," Greenwheel's "Shelter," Theory of a Dead Man's "Invisible Man" and Injected's "I-IV-V" all have thought-provoking lyrics with that catchy melodic rock element undulating in the electric guitars and disillusioning vocals.

The soundtrack is a haven for good change. Alient Ant Farm, the same band that gave us the annoying rendition of "Smooth Criminal," tones down its hyperactivity a notch with "Bug Bytes." One of the biggest surprises in the album, Slipknot vocalist Corey Taylor, shies away from his pounding sound and unveils his mask to reveal a purely acoustic song, "Bother," singing evenly with the orchestrated background. Rock balladeer Pete Yorn follows shortly on the acoustic-powered mellowness with "Undercover." The Strokes' "When It Started" and The Hives' "Hate to Say I Told You So" bring in their post-punk '70s electric-guitar clonking feel backed by their radio-boxed/walkie-talkie-toting vocals, sprinkling a more backbeat variety to the budding rock-anthem mindset that the album was starting to diffuse. Former Alice in Chains' guitarist Jerry Cantrell jumps in with "She Was My Girl," much like his previous soundtrack efforts (Think: "Leave Me Alone" from "The Cable Guy" soundtrack), while strong and confident, can become quite tiring after a while with its repetitive choruses.

To hear Macy Gray's raspy vocals right smack in the middle of the album elicit sighs of relief from female listeners. The only female voice in the album, she stands strong and powerful against the male-dominated soundtrack with the blissful "My Nutmeg Fan-

SPIDERMAN'S/p.C5

Tikman ang bagong sarap!

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"Para sa champion
na tulad ko, isa
lang ang champion
sa beef loaf:
Ang Bagong Purefoods
Beef Loaf Superior.

SIKSIK SA LAMAN.
Buong-buo at di
madaling madurog.

SIKSIK SA SUSTANSYA.
Punung-puno
ng protina.

SIKSIK SA SARAP.
Gustung-gusto ng
aking pamilya."

Pakyaw Na!

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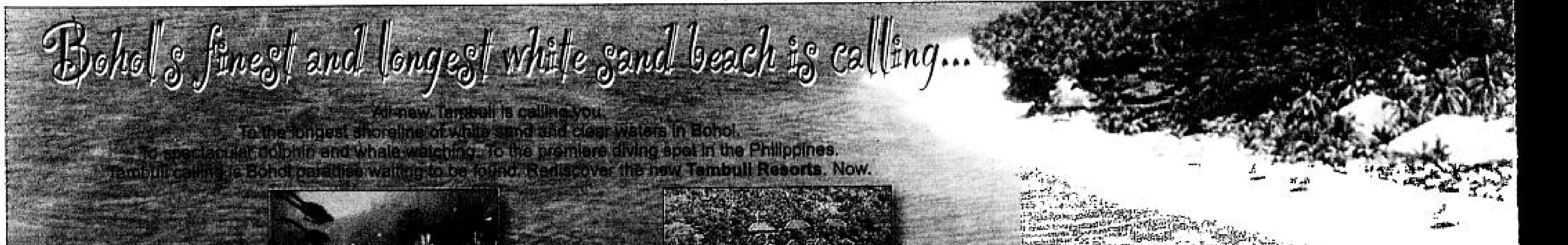
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Prince Charming-hunting with Judy and Mandy

From page C8

ally afford a Jansport bag, which costs P990 to P1,290.

- That a real person could be named Rizette. Where did the scriptwriter get that name?
- That a movie could go literally commercial—there were endorsements all over the movie for Mr. Donuts, Rexona and Block & White.
- That the filmmakers would actually expect the audience to fall for the first scene (where the romantic pair's roles are reversed—Dingdong is the security guard and Juday is the classy rich girl). Of course, the audience knew it was just a dream sequence.

'A Walk to Remember' (Warner Bros)

THIS melodrama set in North Carolina will remind you of an obsolete paperback tragic romance. It tells the story of Landon Carter and his mean school pals who malign the shrewd and sensible Jamie Sullivan, the daughter of the town minister. He didn't know then that he had just stumbled upon something he had been looking for, a girl to change his piddling little life forever.

Names to remember while watching Shane Filan. Shane Filan of the Irish boy band Westlife who even looks like Filan (he's Mandy's big crush, too). Billy Crawford is another name.

Names to remember while watching Mandy Moore. Lea Salonga and her effortless high-pitched vocals (minus the bewitching breathy style). Also, Maybeline dela Cruz and her facial twitches.

Character to remember. Jamie Sullivan. Despite being heaped with ridicule, she remains intact and inspires confidence. Despite suffering from terrible ordeals, she is a model of industry.

Acting prowess to remember. Shane and Mandy are competent actors.

Clique to remember. Filan and his peers are commendable for avoiding overacting.

Bag to remember. Like Judy Ann Santos, Mandy carries a Jansport bag.

What the viewers don't want to remember. Boredom and frustration (especially for fans of Mandy). It's hard to decode the story build-up with its languid efforts either stirring the pulses or provoking the tear-ducts. Major thanks to Mandy the movie didn't bomb at the tills.

'Spider-man's'...

From page C4

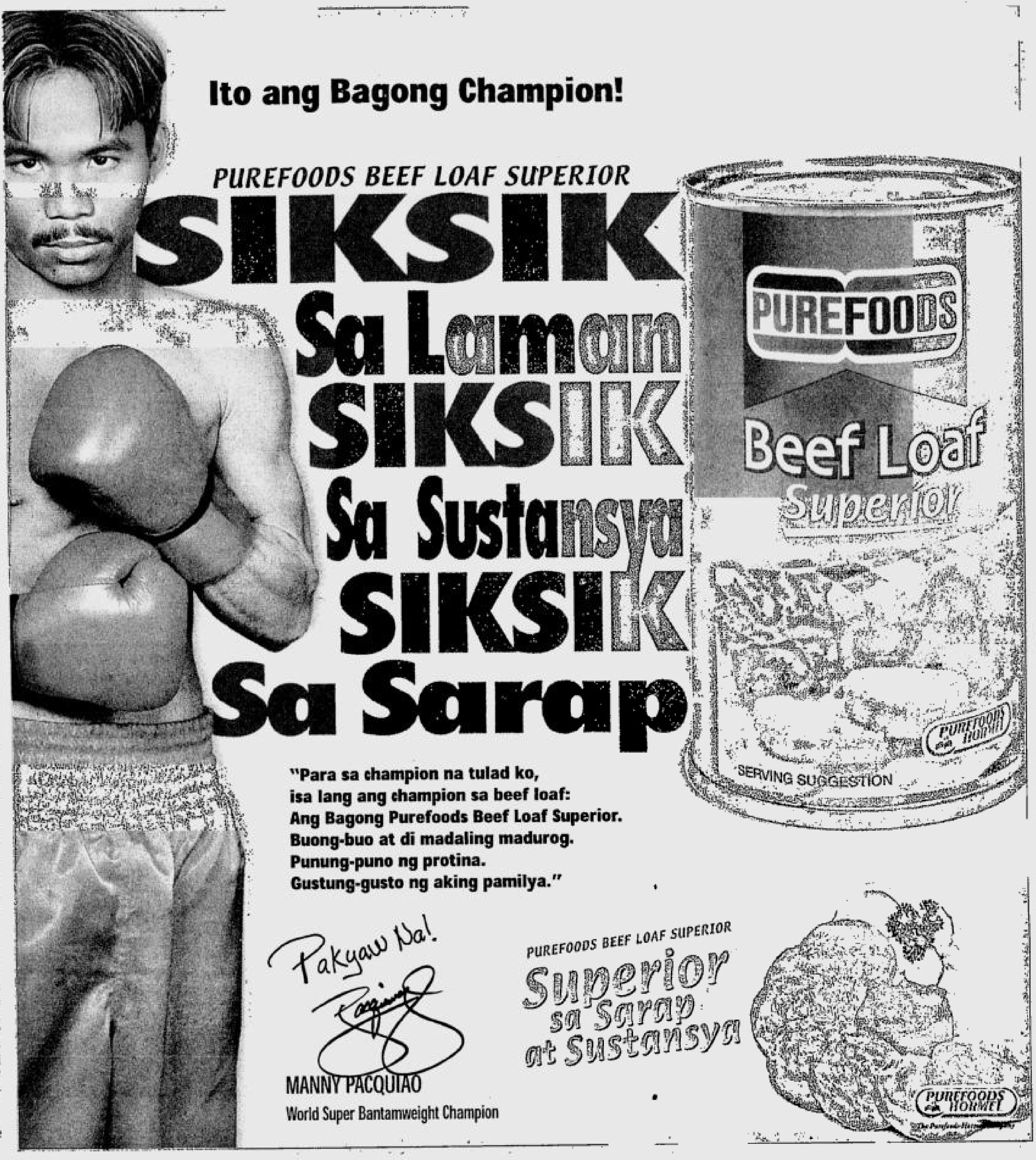
tasy (Tom Morello Mix)."

Two instrumental tracks are also featured from the movie, "Main Titles" and "Farewell," both by Danny Elfman. The album then slides into Aerosmith's edgy classic rock reincarnation of the "Spider-man" theme song.

The Asian CD edition feeds its consumers with two of its most successful artists. Taiwanese singer Leehom Wang brings in a rap/hiphop/rock flavor with "Like A Gunshot." And Pinoy band, Greyhoundz fuses their trademark hardcore/rock sound with a more melodic pitch in "Even," the heaviest track on the album. The perfect song for the grand finale, it makes Filipinos swell with pride.

"Spider-man" is a movie for everyone. Its soundtrack is a rock album, but like one of those plain chocolate cakes on display at the bake shop—though not quite bright and pop like its counterparts—remains full of depth and flavor, and is universally appetizing. Though some may relish its taste long enough to dub it as an all-time favorite, others may also just "use once and dispose." A fan of radio-friendly stadium rock? Get the album. Besides, who can resist an interactive CD treat.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com



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Punung-puno ng protina.
Gustung-gusto ng aking pamilya."

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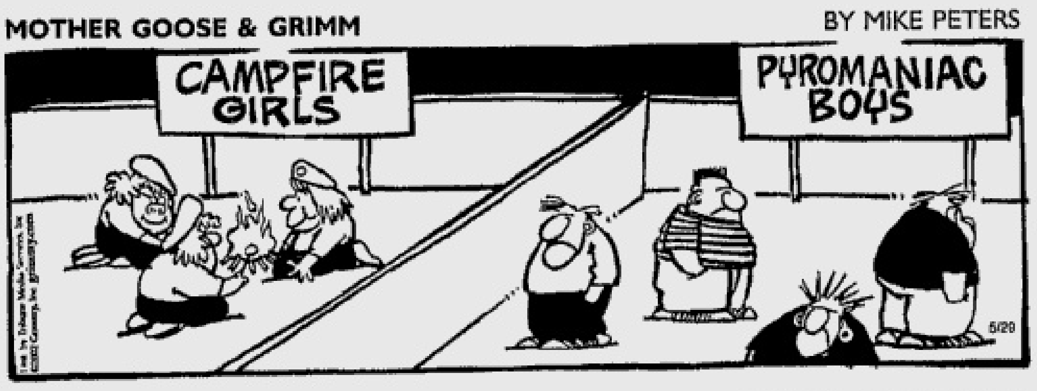
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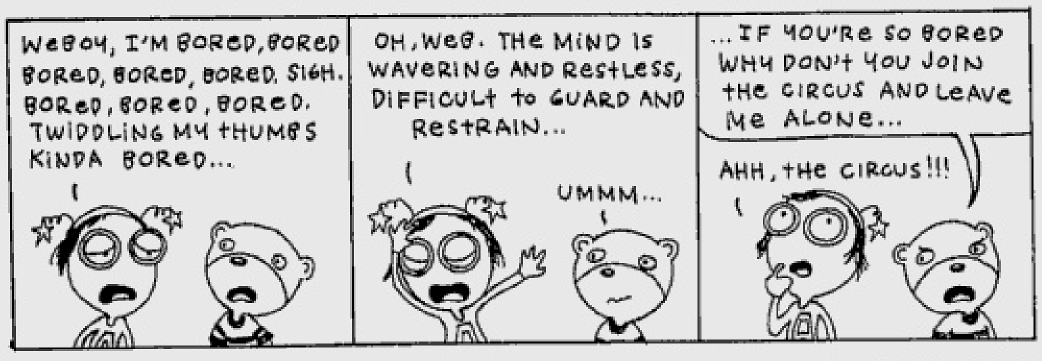
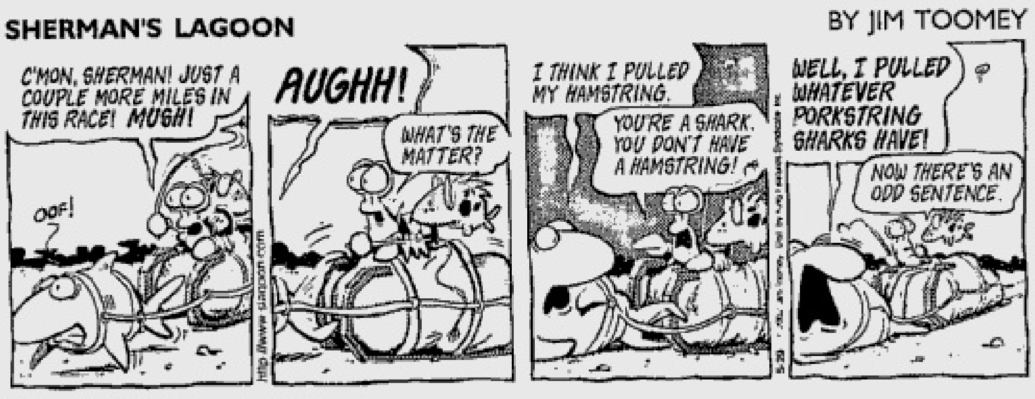
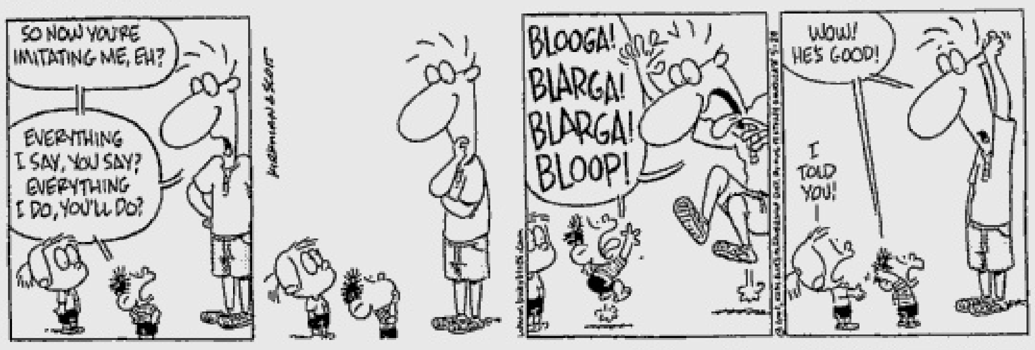

WEBOY, I'M BORED, BORED BORED, BORED, BORED. SIGH. BORED, BORED, BORED. TWIDDLING MY THUMBS KINDA BORED...
OH, WEB. THE MIND IS WAVERING AND RESTLESS, DIFFICULT TO GUARD AND RESTRAIN...
UMMM...
...IF YOU'RE SO BORED WHY DON'T YOU JOIN THE CIRCUS AND LEAVE ME ALONE...
AHH, THE CIRCUS!!!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


C'MON, SHERMAN! JUST A COUPLE MORE MILES IN THIS RACE! MUGH!
OOF!
AUGHH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I THINK I PULLED MY HAMSTRING.
YOU'RE A SHARK. YOU DON'T HAVE A HAMSTRING!
WELL, I PULLED WHATEVER PORKSTRING SHARKS HAVE!
NOW THERE'S AN ODD SENTENCE.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SO NOW YOU'RE IMITATING ME, EH?
EVERYTHING I SAY, YOU SAY? EVERYTHING I DO, YOU'LL DO?
BLOOGA! BLARGA! BLARGA! BLOOP!
WOW! HE'S GOOD!
I TOLD YOU!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Hope, Annette Bening, John F. Kennedy, LaToya Jackson

Happy Birthday: You are a loyal partner and trusted friend. You will have an interest in religion and philosophy. You will study hard to satisfy your thirst for knowledge as well as to be well-informed. This is a year of progress, however, if you don't make the effort, nothing will change. Your numbers are 6, 14, 27, 31, 39, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems you least expect are likely to develop, making it necessary for you to think and react quickly. You will have to be prepared to take on added responsibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You must get out more. Interact with people who have a different perspective on life than you do. Your attitude is changing and it may be time to consider moving in a different direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you believe in something, especially yourself, then it is time to put your talent and your dreams on the line. You won't be sorry.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be in a romantic mood and as long as you have someone to bestow your affections on. Too much time alone or with the wrong person will get on your nerves so plan activities that will keep you out of trouble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to get to know some of your colleagues a little better. Spending time over lunch or planning a company event will be a start. Use your charm and outgoing nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You probably haven't updated your look in some time. You must keep up with the times so you're perceived as an individual who is on top. The way one presents oneself plays an important role in life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone you are close to may be in a bad mood so if you don't want to be the brunt of the troubles, stay out of the way and keep busy. You can get a lot accomplished if you focus.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your self-confidence will shine through today, even if you don't feel it within. Professional advancement can be yours if you mingle with the right people. You will set a good example and receive recognition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get down to business and focus on advancement and getting ahead financially. Your reputation will be enhanced by the company you keep. It's time for you to show your leadership abilities.

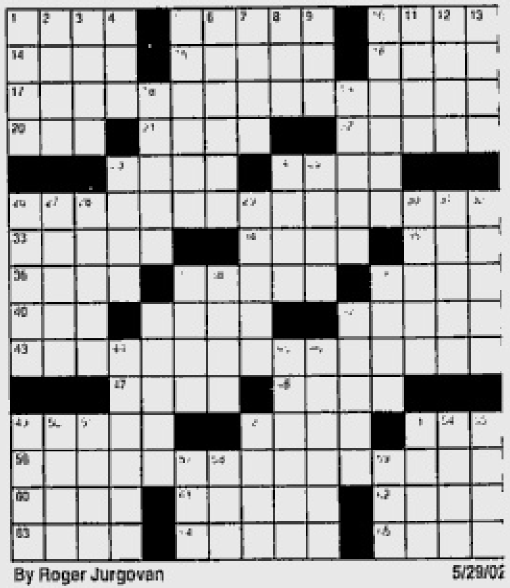
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships may be a little uncertain today. Your emotions will be running a little high and you could easily take someone the wrong way. Try to keep things in perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep things to yourself today. Secretive actions will make for a much better surprise later on. One of your ideas could turn out to be a real moneymaker.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be part of a group today to show your true talents. You can make extra cash if you put your creative ideas to good use. Look into small business ventures and taking on a partner.

Birthday Baby: You will be energetic and relentless in your pursuits. You will always speak frankly to get your point across. You will view trivial talk as a waste of time. You will have a real taste for luxury and the finer things in life.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

5/29/02

ACROSS
1 Young sow
5 Altercation
10 Handle of a knife
14 Thought
15 Miscue
16 Sole
17 Start of an observation
20 Back-and-forth curve
21 Act as a lookout
22 Self-indulgent spree
23 Tennessee flower
24 Dregs
26 Part 2 of observation
33 Listens to attentively
34 Chess act
35 Roses' place
36 Times
37 Colorful aquarium fish
39 One of a "Turandot" trio
40 Dunderhead
41 Headland
42 "Blue __ Shoes"
43 Part 3 of observation
47 __ Bien Phu
48 French movies
49 Pita fiber
52 __ Xiaoping
53 Pig's digs
56 End of observation
60 "Fargo" producer
61 Full-length
62 Boast
63 __ Kong
64 Some signals
65 Ice mass

DOWN
1 Scoff
2 Fateful day in the Forum
3 Allows
4 Make lace
5 Slavic nation
6 Country singer Tubb
7 Lively pace
8 Wee one
9 Food scrap
10 Alternative to standard medicine
11 Soon
12 Apply the whip
13 Mischievous child
18 Merits
19 Corpulent
23 Squid squirts
24 Circle
25 A deadly sin
26 Flour grain
27 Draconian
28 Obliterate
29 Urge to action
30 "__ Irish Rose"
31 Japanese fencing
32 Lawn-care device
37 Stare in awe
38 At the time of
39 Purplish brown color
41 Town official, of yore
42 Fijian golfer Vijay
44 Loafing
45 Froze over
46 Faint colorations
49 Hankering
50 Skedaddle!
51 H.S. student
52 Carp cousin
53 Very dry
54 Russian autocrat
55 Safecracker
57 Center of a wheel
58 Helm dir.
59 Recede

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	U	D	■	S	E	N	T	■	L	A	T	H	E
P	O	L	O	■	U	T	A	H	■	E	T	H	E	L
E	S	A	U	■	S	A	N	E	■	S	O	A	R	S
W	I	N	B	Y	A	L	A	N	D	S	L	I	D	E
■	■	■	T	O	N	I	■	■	E	E	L	■	■	■
A	S	S	■	U	N	I	T	I	V	E	■	C	R	Y
P	O	L	A	R	■	■	A	D	O	■	I	L	I	A
P	L	A	C	E	A	P	H	O	N	E	C	A	L	L
L	E	T	T	■	M	A	O	■	■	T	E	N	E	T
E	D	S	■	D	O	Z	E	N	T	H	■	G	S	A
■	■	■	S	O	C	■	■	O	H	I	O	■	■	■
S	H	O	W	Y	O	U	R	T	I	C	K	E	T	S
M	E	L	E	E	■	S	A	I	N	■	A	G	U	E
O	R	G	A	N	■	A	G	O	G	■	P	A	N	E
G	O	A	T	S	■	F	E	N	S	■	I	D	E	S

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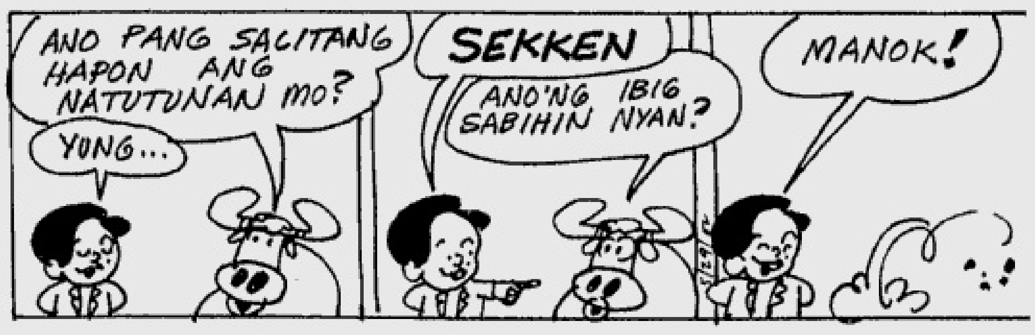
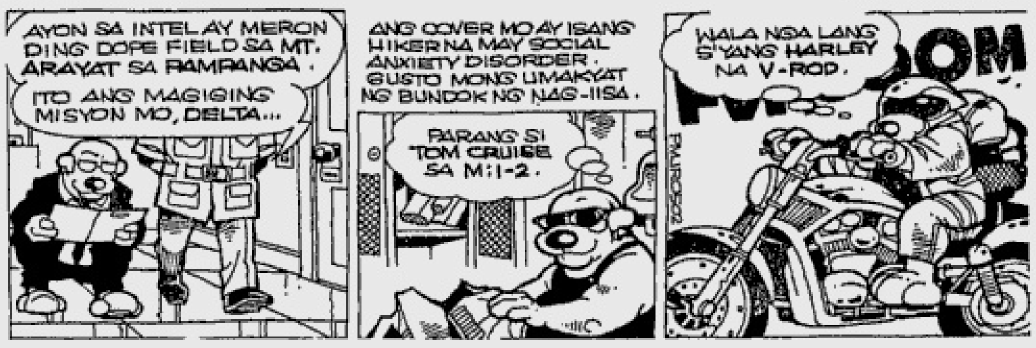
5/28/02

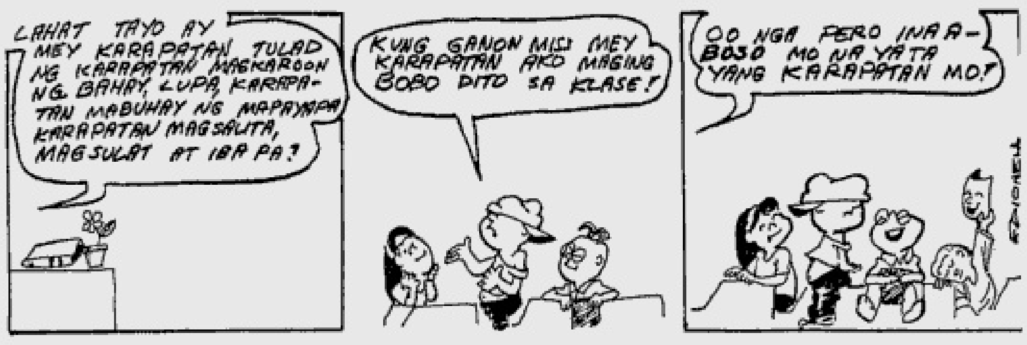
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANO PANG SALITANG HAPON ANG NATUTUNAN MO?
YUNG...
SEKKEN
ANO'NG IBIG SABIHIN NYAN?
MANOK!

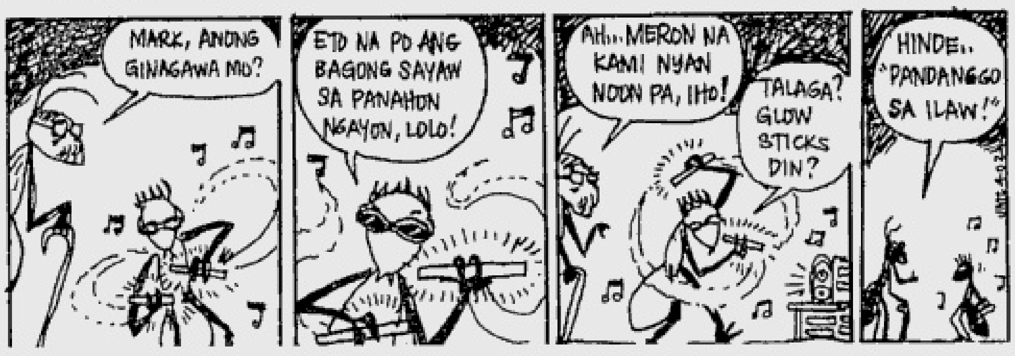
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYON SA INTEL AY MERON DING DOPE FIELD SA MT. ARAYAT SA PAMPANGA.
ITO ANG MAGIGING MISYON MO, DELTA...
ANG COVER MO AY ISANG HIKER NA MAY SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER. GUSTO MONG UMAKYAT NG BUNDOK NG NAG-IISA.
PARANG SI TOM CRUISE SA M:I-2.
WALA NGA LANG S'YANG HARLEY NA V-ROD.
VROOM

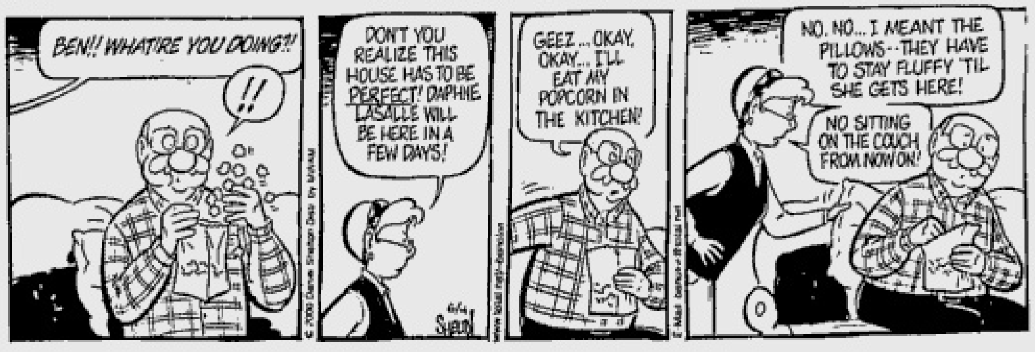
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


LAHAT TAYO AY MEY KARAPATAN TULAD NG KARAPATAN MAGKAROON NG BAHAY, LUPA, KARAPATAN MABUHAY NG MAPAYAPA KARAPATAN MAGSALITA, MAGSULAT AT IBA PA?
KUNG GANON MISS MEY KARAPATAN AKO MAGING BOBO DITO SA KLASE!
OO NGA PERO INAABUSO MO NA YATA YANG KARAPATAN MO!
DIONELA

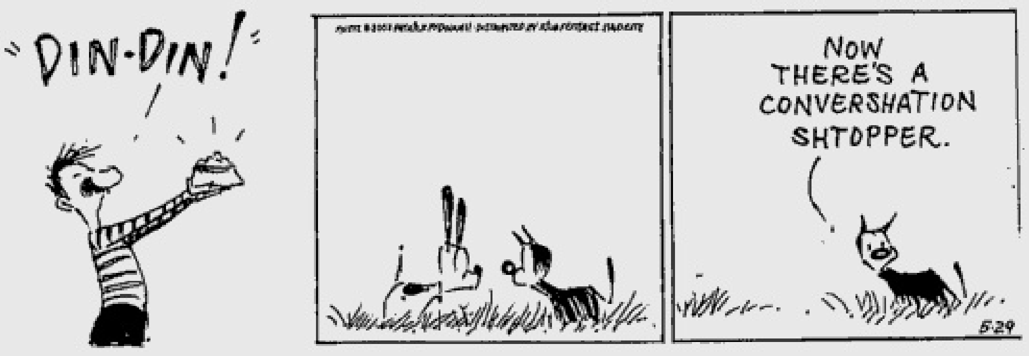
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARK, ANONG GINAGAWA MO?
ETO NA PO ANG BAGONG SAYAW SA PANAHON NGAYON, LOLO!
AH... MERON NA KAMI NYAN NOON PA, IHO!
TALAGA? GLOW STICKS DIN?
HINDE.. "PANDANGGO SA ILAW!"

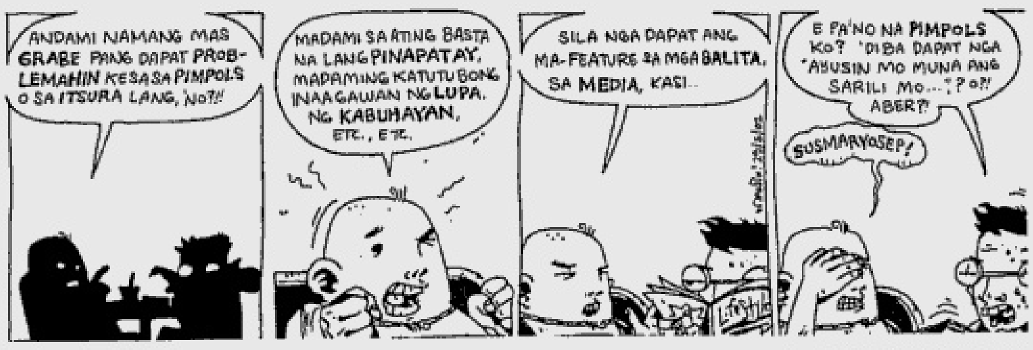
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
!!
DON'T YOU REALIZE THIS HOUSE HAS TO BE PERFECT! DAPHNE LASALLE WILL BE HERE IN A FEW DAYS!
GEEZ... OKAY, OKAY... I'LL EAT MY POPCORN IN THE KITCHEN!
NO, NO... I MEANT THE PILLOWS--THEY HAVE TO STAY FLUFFY 'TIL SHE GETS HERE!
NO SITTING ON THE COUCH FROM NOW ON!

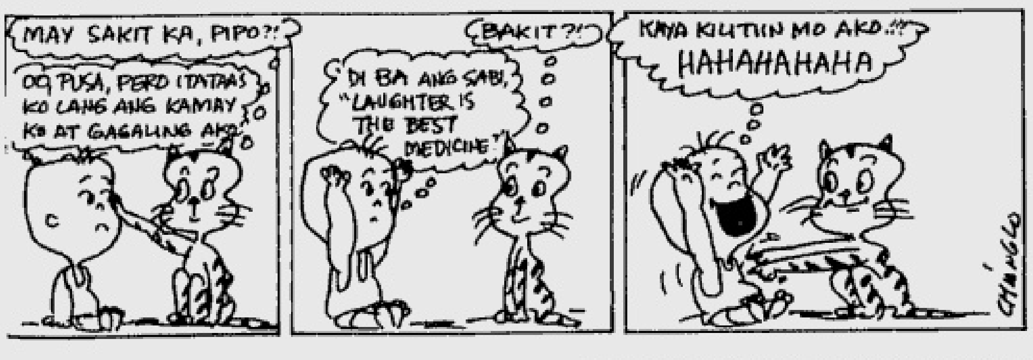
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DIN-DIN!
NOW THERE'S A CONVERSHATION SHTOPPER.
5-29

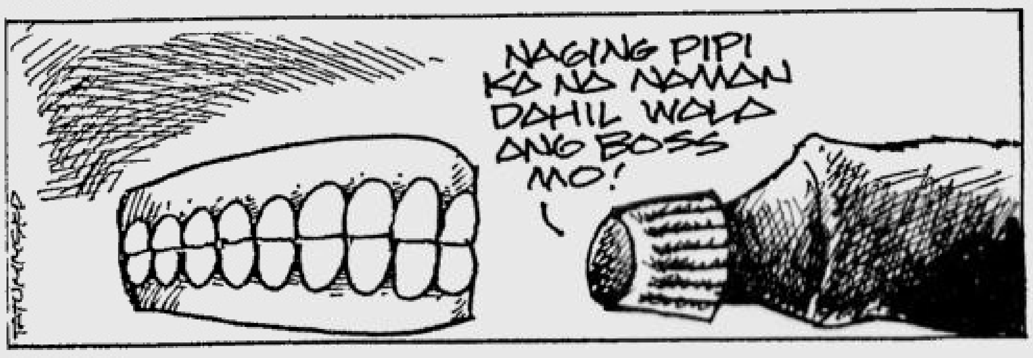
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ANDAMI NAMANG MAS GRABE PANG DAPAT PROBLEMAHIN KESA SA PIMPOLS O SA ITSURA LANG, NO?!
MADAMI SA ATING BASTA NA LANG PINAPATAY, MARAMING KATUTUBONG INAAGAWAN NG LUPA, NG KABUHAYAN, ETC., ETC.
SILA NGA DAPAT ANG MA-FEATURE SA MGA BALITA, SA MEDIA, KASI...
E PA'NO NA PIMPOLS KO? 'DIBA DAPAT NGA "ABUSIN MO MUNA ANG SARILI MO..."? O?! ABER?!
SUSMARYOSEP!

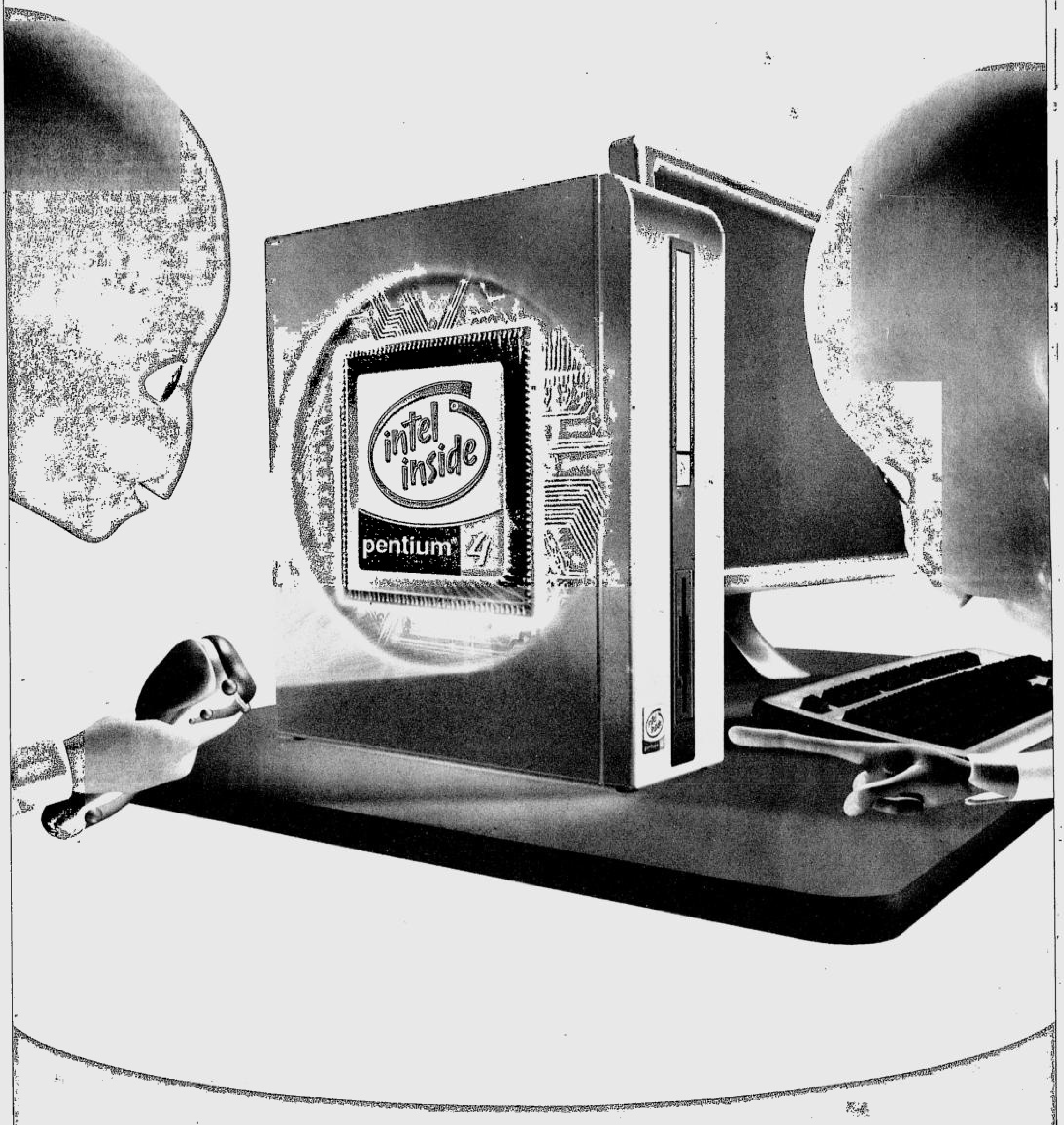
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAY SAKIT KA, PIPO?!
OO PUSA, PERO ITATAAS KO LANG ANG KAMAY KO AT GAGALING AKO!
BAKIT?!
DI BA ANG SABI, "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE"
KAYA KILITIIN MO AKO!!!
HAHAHAHAHA
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAGING PIPI KA NA NAMAN DAHIL WALA ANG BOSS MO!
TATUM

For the **best performance** it's **what's inside** that counts



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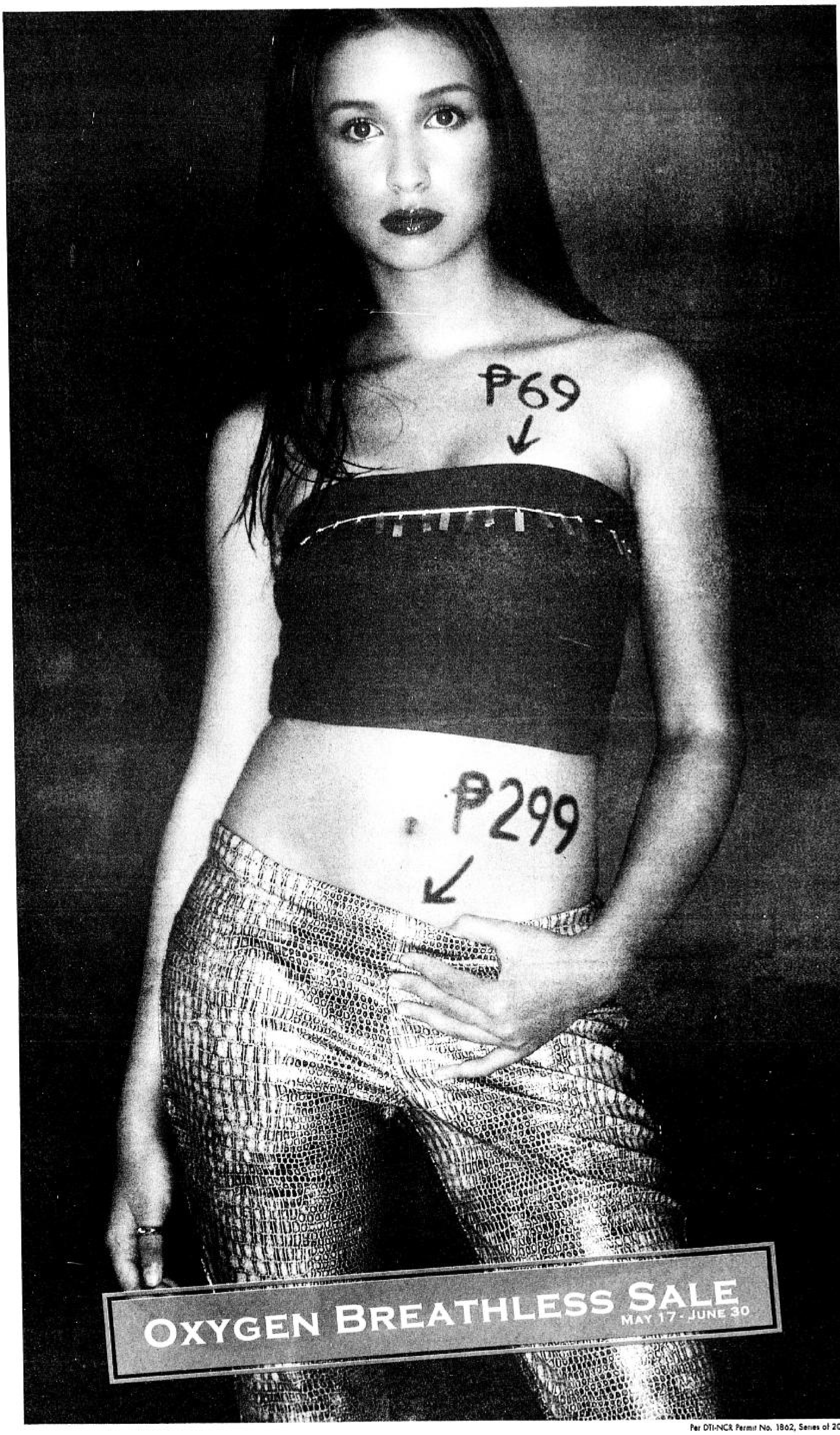


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1862, Series of 2002

Prince Charming-hunting with Judy and Mandy

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bUI Correspondent

'AKALA Ko' (Viva Films)

Young independent filmmaker Lyle Sacris' first feature movie is a romance comedy about a young female security guard and her crush on a pretty bachelor-tenant. Based on Aiza Seguerra's hit recording (a sequence shows the singer performing the song), the movie shows the guard's apparent love for relic-hunting (she keeps her crush's trash, treating them as valuables). This boy-meets-girl plot that's familiar to every moviegoer is given a typical charm by the movie's experimental streak (some shots assume the points of view of a bird and a worm). Making a love team out of Judy Ann Santos and Dingdong Dantes is a brilliant idea, but the chemistry between the two does not boil over.

List of 'akala ko' (or so I thought)

- That the untried Juday-Dingdong tandem would be quite a hit. Surprisingly, in the cinema where I watched it, the pair received a frosty welcome.
- That Katya is actually Juday in several scenes (forgive me, but my sight is really going.) Both could pass up as each other's doppelgangers since they sport the same hairstyle and are both anatomically full. But Katya's bumpers are undeniably fuller.

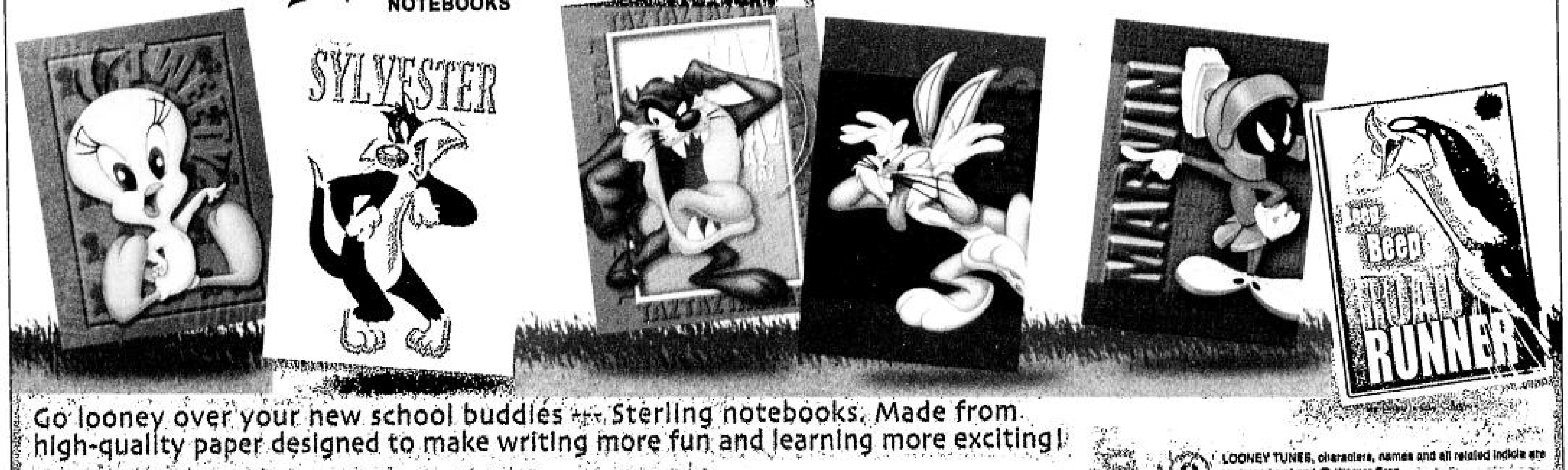
Saccharine teenage romances thrive. Get syrupy with 'Akala Ko' and 'A Walk to Remember'

- That Anne Curtis would give a performance distinct from the one she gave in the TV drama show "Anna Karenina." But I still saw hallucinatory subtitles going "Hi, Reyster, yes Reyster" (the character played by Chubi del Rosario in the TV show) whenever she delivered her lines.
- That they lifted the "falling-stars-for-lovers" story from the Geneva-Paco Arespacochaga failed romance.
- That Raymart Santiago would show up after I saw Dennis Padilla in the movie.
- That I'd hear Andrew E.'s "Submarine" ditty when Rico J. Puno and Talisha Jean appeared together in one scene.
- That I was watching "Karma" (with Vilma Santos) after a chandelier exploded while Juday and Dingdong kissed in the final sequence.
- That Aiza was ghost-haunting in the condo when she suddenly burst upon the camera with her guitar to sing "Akala Ko."

List of ' 'di ko inakala' (I didn't expect)

- That this movie was also an occasion for Juday and Candy Pangilinan to flaunt their terrific tongue-twisting capabilities.
- That Katya would be typecast in the same *sosyalera* (but never *bida*) role. Her performance leaves much to be desired.
- That Mandy Ochoa would play again an office guy (the villain to Dingdong). Will he be detained as yuppie for life?
- That the flick would be a reunion of Sacris' director-friends. Aside from Sacris, making cameos were Tado of UNTV and Eric Mattl.
- That Rizette, the young *sikyo*, could actu

PRINCE/ p.C5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THE PREMIER MARINE PARK
Tel. No.: (047)2529000
Website: www.oceanadventure.com.ph

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 29, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY IN
LIFESTYLE
2bU
to be young • to be you • to be you • To be you! • to be young
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph or log on to http://you.inq7.net

Donut de Fruta
frosted fruit flavored donuts
Dunkin' Donuts
₱99 a dozen

Play Underground gives the kid in everyone of us an airing

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WE set aside a Tuesday afternoon to try out Play Underground's facilities. Never mind that most of us got home at 4 a.m. from the office and hardly had any sleep. We were ready and willing to give our all. Some of us succeeded, some failed, but we all had a blast.

Being a kid again

IT'S easy to forget the time when we were carefree; when we climbed trees, jumped on our beds, and played *baril-barilan* with no inhibitions. As we matured and got older, we moved on to serious stuff, like climbing the corporate ladder, jumping the opposite sex and um, backstabbing (a major no-no). And so it was great to be reminded of the nicer things in life aside from cars or expensive clothes. We actually sweated for them, thanks to Play Underground.

You have probably spotted the signs in Rockwell. Play Underground is at the third parking level of the Power Plant Mall. It's a large, open space, with walls and boulders for wall climbing, trampolines. Soon, a paintball game area will be added. Although you don't leave Makati, you can easily forget you're in the heart of the corporate jungle.

The wall climbing section covers one whole side of the complex. Each wall differs in difficulty. Some looked pretty easy, with kids crawling up seemingly without much difficulty. One kid looked like he wanted not just to complete the whole wall, but climb the PowerPlant mall itself, which put us, older guys, under pressure to equal if not better his feat. I was confident, though, since I've already tried wall climbing in a different mall, although it was traumatic.

When it was my turn to rappel down, the assistant made sure I knew my basics: "*Hawakan mo 'yang tali kung hindi mamamatay ka talaga. Mamamatay ka!*" Ernie Lopez, one of the owners of the place, was really helpful in telling us the dos and don'ts. I felt no worry as he helped me put on my harness. Other assistants helped people slip on their own harness and instructed them on the proper things to do. They make sure that people forget about their worries once they start climbing by cheering them on and helping them make the next move.

As I put my feet on the first few stones, I knew there was nowhere to go but up. It was nice to feel my arm muscles stretch, as I really don't go to the gym. I had a pretty fast climb not because I was damn good but because I couldn't allow myself to be beaten to the top by the kid. Har, har!

After that, we tried the trampoline. If wall climbing doesn't make you sweat too much, you will be gasping for breath after some major jumping on the trampoline. A harness is also worn here so you do not find yourself in another city. The challenge is to jump as high as possible and do a somersault. Jeena Lopez showed us how to do just that, and we were quite impressed. It looked so easy. When I had my turn on the trampoline, my first somersault had me landing on my head, which made me look like an idiot and a pathetic geek. Again, the thought of some kid expertly doing perfect acrobatics on the trampoline made me cringe. I can't be beaten by a kid. I have to feel like a kid again. Thinking about my childhood friend Peter Pan, I made another high jump, looked up to the sky, turned my whole body and did a somersault. I was free. ***Jason Doplito***

History repeats itself

WHEN I was younger, I used to climb trees to collect ants with my older brother. The thought of reaching the top while my *yaya* yelled for me to get down

PLAY / p.D2

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RAFFLE SA
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NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0182, Series of 2002.

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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Get a new kind of high literally

GABRIELLA gets ready for a somersault.

By Allison W. Lopez

FLYING, fear, fun and freedom. All this in one extraordinary machine that makes you leap up to 8 meters kicking and screaming in the air and praying for quick death. After a while, though, you actually begin to like the feeling of jumping up and down a trampoline. Higher, you begin to demand. You have become a human yo-yo, and you love it.

With the Eurobungy, you'll certainly beg for more. The newest alternative sports equipment in Europe, the Eurobungy combines acrobatics and bungy jumping in one big, exciting sport for all ages, and almost all sizes.

The Siemens Mobile Fun Jump 2002 allowed hundreds of kids, teens, and even the young at heart to feel the exhilarating thrill of the new sport.

"We want to tell people that Siemens is unique in the sense that it wants to bring unique experiences, not just through our phones, but through our activities," said Baby Revilla, Siemens' vice president for mobile phones.

Around the world

Bo Stoetzel, Siemens' Eurobungy supplier, said Eurobungy was actually the name of the German comny operating the trampolines used. Germans Peter and Alexander Raidt set up the company in the early '90s to produce fun and trendy equipment for extreme sports.

While real bungy jumping is done from cliffs or bridges, the Raidts came up with the 4-in-1 bungy trampoline, an accessible unit designed to accommodate four jumpers simultaneously. Eurobungy trampolines became popular in American theme parks and are also used in Australia, Germany, Spain and some European countries. Stoetzel said Eurobungy had been all over Asia through Siemens.

Revilla said Siemens brought the Eurobungy here believing that it reflected Siemens Mobile's spirit in many ways. "Just like Eurobungy, Siemens Mobile is in the business of seeing to it that people realize their dreams and enjoy life. It's a synthesis of fun and function, really. Eurobungy does it through its trampolines, we do it through our phones."

Siemens used the Eurobungy event to introduce its new line of stylish mobile phones: the trendy C45, the sporty ME45, and the classy S45 and SL45I. "They have new features, which we are demonstrating to the public, like the high-quality speaker phone of the ME45 and S45, the C45's exciting games, and the MP3 player of the SL45I," Revilla said.

How Eurobungy works

To use the Eurobungy, www.flymotion.com.au said the jumper is first fitted with a specially-made hip-harness connected to adjustable elastics, or "bungy cords." The cords, in turn, are attached to high-quality mountaineering ropes diverted over the top of the structure to a winch at the base. The jumper is then lifted above the trampoline using the winch. By jumping, s/he gains height.

Sounds too technical? Think about those times when, as a kid, you jumped up and down the bed, trying valiantly to touch the roof. Well, with the 4-in-1 bungy trampoline, you can do just that and even try to reach for the sky (almost). Instead of a bed, you get an ultra-bouncy trampoline, which makes jumping much more fun.

As for tumbling on the bed, like you used to do, this time you could do it suspended in the air, flipping back and forth like circus acrobats. Moreover, the Eurobungy is safer than jumping on your bed! Eon's Maj Marbibi, Siemens' PR consultant, gave the assurance that no matter what happened to your tumbles and turns, you'd always land safely on your feet.

Unique experience

Jumpers during the Siemens Mobile Summer Fun Jump at Power Plant Mall last May 19 found the Eurobungy a "gravity-defying ride, giving all the adrenaline of bungy jumping but none of the risks."

"It's like you're dying, but you're really not!" exclaimed Cecilia Sevilla Santos, a gutsy mom who tried the Eurobungy.

Siblings Stephanie and Joseph Maximiano, with cousin Diego Gonzales, kept going back for more. "It's so fun!" they screamed. "Groovy" dad Jojo Maximiano joined his kids and nephew in their enthusiasm. "It makes you feel young again," he said.

Fourteen-year-old Gabriella Van Der Linden, a sporty young lady, confessed that she tried the Eurobungy while she was in England. She described it as fun and scary at the same time. Buddies Toti Pascual, 17, and Cris de Rivera, 24, said, "We were curious. We wanted to try it out just for the fun of it," Cris said.

Patrick Martires, Siemens' 21-year-old official photographer for the event, said that it was fun but it could be tiring, too. "It requires quite a lot of effort from the jumper," he said.

The effort needed was both physical and mental as you have to psyche yourself before jumping. You have to overcome your self-consciousness about people watching you jump and your fear of falling.

Unlike some sports, Eurobungy does not discriminate against people because of age, height and weight. Although it does have a weight limit (80-90 kg), Stoetzel noted that most Filipinos fell below the limit. The Eurobungy encourages individuality and nonconformity. You don't need to practice before trying it out. You can, in fact, do your experimentation while you're up there and try to be as unique as you can be.

If you're willing to experience the thrilling four (flying, fear, fun and freedom) in one, sign up, get weighed, and queue up for the Eurobungy experience.

Catch the last of the Eurobungy at the Siemens Mobile Summer Fun Jump May 31 to June 2, Festival Mall in Alabang. For more details on Eurobungy, visit www.flymotion.com.au or www.eurobungy.com

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She's wondering why she always meets the wrong guy

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I've had six ex-boyfriends (which I'm not proud of), four of whom I had bad breakups with. I caught them cheating on me.

My first boyfriend dumped me on our prom night. The third one married my *barkada*. The fourth had another girlfriend, and I never talked to my last boyfriend when I found out he spent two nights with a girl I knew he was dating before me. Is it a sign that I always pick the wrong guy?

After my third boyfriend, I tried being more cautious in choosing a new boyfriend, but I still ended up getting hurt. I admit I loved them so much, it hurt me when the relationships fell apart. Sometimes, I just wish that I'd get used to the pain. But I was not born stupid, neither a martyr. If there is one thing I can't tolerate in men, it's when they are unfaithful.

My relationships never lasted. My longest was seven months. Was it something in me or do I just keep on choosing the wrong guy? Is it too much to ask for a guy to be honest and faithful?

BLUE

I have mentioned before that the ratio of the number of men to the number of boys is 1:5, and that is only my conservative estimate based on what I see in the choir that I belong to.

To find the real man among the males that we see every day, a girl has to go through (either by meeting or actually being with) the boys that outnumber the men like sieving a pile of sand in order to find a gem. She realizes what a man is by finding out first what a man is not.

The way I see it, this is what you've been doing. I don't believe that the bad experiences you've had with some of your ex's are an indication of your stupidity unless you've jumped into another relationship right after one ended without at least analyzing what went wrong between you and your previous boyfriend. Most probably, you only had the bad luck of meeting boys that were careless with relationships.

Now this is not all bad because it teaches you (cross your fingers) what to look out for the next time you meet a guy, what to do to sustain the relationship, when to end one, etc. I'm afraid, though, that it is a little too much to ask for honesty and faithfulness from all guys, but I am sure that once you develop a trained eye in spotting a man amid a bunch of boys, he would be willing to give you all that you ask for and more. And this is not just some romantic crap that I'm giving you—I believe in it myself. Just give yourself time, never doubt your capability to love and never give up your convictions about what a good relationship is supposed to be.

SEP

Sep's words are harsh, I must point out, and I wouldn't be doing my fair share in defending all lost hearts and souls everywhere.

Loves lost, heartaches gained, the indignities forgiven but unforgotten are events that many experience in a life in pursuit of twosome happiness, regardless of gender. It is outright presumptuous for anyone to cry foul and whine that the hand you've been dealt all these years was rigged to lose. Those who play the odds on a daily basis exercise patience, the balance of intellect and emotion, and the ability to walk away.

It takes two to tango, sisters. It also takes two to dance painfully to clumsy feet and open-toe sandals, if you know what I mean. And since we're talking statistics, one man for every five boys means that, you, Blue, have let one gem slip through the sieve.

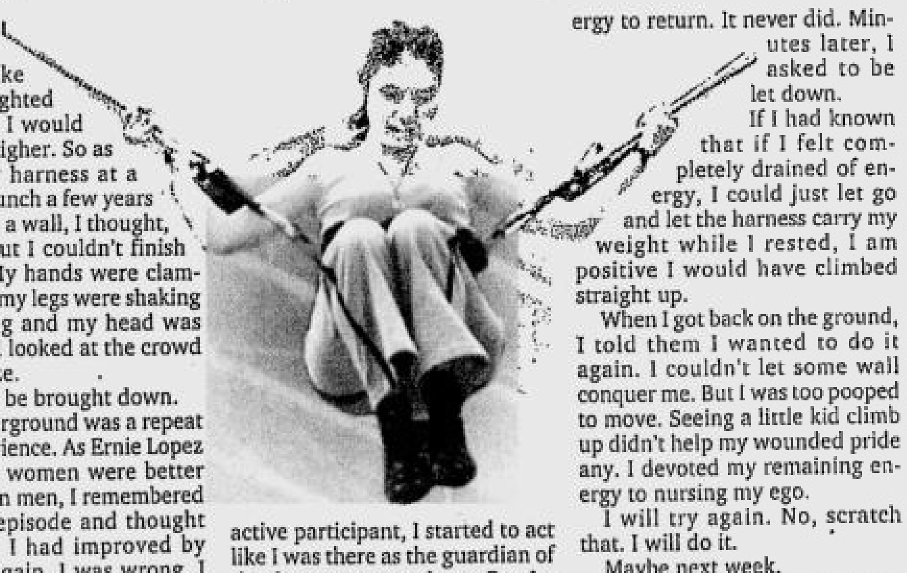
But love is not about statistics. I daresay it's about patience; it's almost the joy of resisting the urge to hold hands, or kiss for the first time. This is a test of sincerity and compatibility, it measures his or her willingness to deserve that beautiful, shared moment. Love, I have also learned, is silence, of keeping still and listening to the nervous voice that tells us what we want isn't a boyfriend or a girlfriend that we've foolishly been depending on for happiness. Maybe we don't necessarily want to feel loved as much as we want to feel love. And maybe the reason we are attracted to immature, fractured souls, who are awkward in expressing their emotions, is because we, too, are "immatures, fractureds and awkwards." It is so easy in our immaturity, in our impatience and inexperience, to make bad judgments about people after we had put them on a pedestal, and upon discovering a flaw in the light, sour grape like the fox, wondering how we always seem to end up with the wrong guys.

CALOY

Email the authors at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Play Underground gives the kid in everyone of us an airing

From page D1



before I broke my neck delighted me so much I would climb even higher. So as I put on my harness at a magazine launch a few years back to scale a wall, I thought, no biggie. But I couldn't finish the climb. My hands were clammy, sweaty, my legs were shaking like anything and my head was spinning as I looked at the crowd below. I froze.

I asked to be brought down.

Play Underground was a repeat of that experience. As Ernie Lopez told us that women were better climbers than men, I remembered the earlier episode and thought that maybe I had improved by then. And again, I was wrong. I didn't get to finish the wall. With each step I took, each rock I grabbed, I felt like they would fall off from my weight. The higher I got, the more upside-down I felt. And so history repeated itself—I didn't finish the wall, and asked to be brought down.

I got on the trampoline and imagined myself doing somersaults. I loved the feeling that I was flying, but the harness cut so tightly into my thighs I couldn't do even a simple backflip. Ernie handed me a pogo stick and told me to try it.

After one jump, I fell off the thing.

I guess some people are better off sticking to climbing trees and collecting ants. ***Maui Reyes***

Vanquished by a wall

I expected Play Underground to be a huge room filled with trampolines. But what greeted me was a huge wall—a wall that, as it turned out, I had to climb.

Since I'm not exactly athletic, I've never had the urge to try wall climbing before. My cousin used to ask me if I wanted to give it a shot because, according to her, it was *"masarap"* but her invitations fell on deaf ears that she finally gave up.

When I saw Play Underground's wall, I decided to alter the script—instead of being an active participant, I started to act like I was there as the guardian of the three correspondents. But Jason gave me the evil eye and said, *"Ano ka ba? Very wrong ka!"*

When I thought about it, I realized I had to do it. I am no chicken—or so I like to believe. There was a high probability that I'd fail, but I'd like to be able to say that at least I tried. So I did.

Standing on the ground, I faced the wall, harness secure, extremely tight shoes on. "Climb up!" I reluctantly hollered to Maui, my belayer (the person holding the rope used for climbing), and she replied with, "Climb on!" I wiped my already sweaty palms on my jeans and started to climb. I grabbed and climbed, grabbed and climbed.

I was doing pretty well considering the fact that I've never climbed anything in my life other than the stairs and—errm, never mind—I was doing well, period.

Halfway up, my left leg started to shake violently. This was apparently the Elvis syndrome. I lifted my leg and tried to climb up, but I couldn't. My arms started to hurt.

Ernie Lopez yelled from below. "Shake your arm behind your back!" I looked at him. The height did not daunt me, I was too focused on the pain in my arms and my shaking leg. Letting my arm relax behind me brought major relief. But grabbing again brought back the discomfort.

I grabbed on for what seemed like eternity, waiting for my energy to return. It never did. Minutes later, I asked to be let down.

If I had known that if I felt completely drained of energy, I could just let go and let the harness carry my weight while I rested, I am positive I would have climbed straight up.

When I got back on the ground, I told them I wanted to do it again. I couldn't let some wall conquer me. But I was too pooped to move. Seeing a little kid climb up didn't help my wounded pride any. I devoted my remaining energy to nursing my ego.

I will try again. No, scratch that. I will do it.

Maybe next week.

As for the trampoline, my incurable motion sickness and bouncing to great heights don't mix. Didn't want to end the afternoon by spilling my guts on the floor. After all, I do want to go back there to climb again.

Pam Pastor

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Adrenaline rush

THE POWER Plant Mall in Rockwell already gives me a high. The mere sight of its architecture is a feast for the eyes, but for one who wants more than shops, movies, arcade, food, bowling, etc., Power Plant has a haven for the adventurous, young and old alike. Power Plant's hidden "dragon" is three floors underground. It doesn't breathe fire, but it will surely give you an adrenaline rush.

If you hear someone say, *"Sarap, pare!"* while promenading in Power Plant, don't think of the fancy restaurants in the mall but check out Play Underground located at P3.

It was already 4 p.m., our supposed meeting time, but I was still looking around the Power Plant expecting to see a sign that said, "This way to Sports Complex." I did not know where the place was and finally called up Jason, who told me where to find Play Underground (it was only then that I knew the name of the place). As his instructions left me even more confused, I decided to ask a security guard.

Stepping out of the elevator, I could not see anything that had something to do with sports. It was a parking lot. Then I saw a sign: Play Underground. It turned out to be Power Plant's "walled city" without the Spanish influence.

The place is made for wall climbers, skateboarders, trampoline jumpers and pogo-stick users.

I tried wall climbing first. For a first-timer looking for any kind of adventure, wall climbing was a delight. Sizing up the wall, I knew I could do it. We took our wall climbing shoes from the counter. I'm a size 9, but Ernie Lopez, part-owner of Play Underground, together with his wife Jeena, said we should choose something that really gripped our feet so we would not slip off the wall. So I got size 8 shoes.

We got some important pointers about wall climbing. A shout of "climb up" from the climber signals the belayer, who held the rope, to secure everything. A belayer's yell to "climb on" was the signal to proceed with the climb. The hands are used only for support, not to climb.

The feet and legs are used to lift the climber to a higher level. "If you could stand on your hands for an hour then use your hands," said another instructor/part owner. He explained how a nonathlete like me who spent his leisure time playing chess could use the game in wall climbing. "When you play chess, you think of the most strategic move. The same goes with wall climbing. You don't just execute your moves. You think of the most strategic place to put your hands and your feet."

Finally, it was time to put on my harness. Pam was my belayer. Although she was doing it for the first time, the equipment I used made me feel secure. It didn't need a real expert to be a belayer because the rope that supported me wouldn't slip unless the belayer pulled the rod that kept the rope from slipping. When she yelled "Climb on," I grabbed the "rocks," placed my right foot first, then the left, stood up, looked up, grabbed another rock, looked down, stepped into the next rock, and then stood up.

Grab. Step. Stand. I was doing that for a while and, before I knew it, I was already halfway up the wall. Thanks to Mr. Lopez's encouragement, I was literally uplifted and made it to the top. I shouted "down!" and Pam lowered me without my having to climb down.

At the trampoline, while Jason did his somersaults, I tried the pogo stick. It was not as easy as it looked when Mr. Lopez did it. Jumping on the trampoline seemed easier as there was no need to balance anything. It was my turn to jump. There were specific harnesses for each sport. For the trampoline, the harness was wider. I didn't know why, but who cared as long as it kept me from breaking a leg or worse, my spinal column.

I was jumping like a kid but with some inhibitions. I worried about looking stupid, especially in front of a huge crowd. I was jumping real high with my body veering away from the center, looking at the back concerned about hitting one of the steel bars. I was just being paranoid because there was really no cause for concern. I did a somersault. If that were graded, I'd get a C minus. It was not as good as Jason's because my head nearly hit the trampoline. Well, as some people are wont to say, "Sports *lang*." I was there to enjoy like everybody else, not to get a high score.

Giles Ivan Aquino

Think you can conquer the wall?

YOU too can have your own Play Underground experience. Just answer this question: What is the wildest thing you've ever done? Send your entries along with your picture, name, age, school/company and contact numbers. You may e-mail us at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph or snail mail it to 2bU! Lifestyle Section, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Chino Roces corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Play Underground is located at P3 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City, Philippines

Remembering the boy who made my knees quiver

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

REWIND to November 1999. The Battle of the Bands was raging in my school. My good friend Cereb, was co-hosting the event, so I brought my video camera to document her hosting gig and my friends performing.

After screaming my head off cheering for my friends, then came the most refreshing image. A very good-looking guitarist was sound-checking his guitar, getting ready for his band's performance. I immediately zoomed in the camera to this immaculate image. My friends and I screamed, "Who are you? I love you! Hottie *moooo*!"

Weeks later, I asked Cereb who this mystery guitarist was. His name was Aldo Ureta, a 15-year-old sophomore from Ateneo. For a boy-crazy junior at the Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) like me, Aldo would become one of the Ateneans to mention when the topic "cute high school boys" would come up.

Fast forward to September 2001. I was doing my usual afternoon reading of the papers. An entertainment column, asked for prayers for the 17-year-old son of former TV personality Ariel Ureta who was suffering from brain tumor. The boy was Aldo.

After two years, despite having dozens of crushes, I remembered that high school rock star. I rang most of my friends who couldn't seem to remember his name, but remembered clearly that striking image of him during that night. We were all shocked and couldn't do anything, but pray.

> Handsome Aldo Ureta affected people's lives for the better. I should know

Benefit concert

A flyer was posted in my classroom about a benefit concert for Aldo organized by his classmates at the Ateneo. My classmate's neighbor happened to be Aldo's classmate and I wanted to buy lots of tickets from him for support, but at that time I was broke. I was really amazed how these kids could do more than just send flowers or get-well-soon cards. They were able to organize a concert featuring bands like Chicosci, Happy Meals, and Monsterbot for their friend in need.

I interviewed Jerome, the drummer of Aldo's band, and I recalled asking him lots of questions about Aldo like a giddy high school girl fishing for boy info. My article never got published, but I kept in touch with Jerome. I'd text him once in a while asking about Aldo's condition.

In one of my phone conversations with Jerome last April, he asked if I could help his friends from Poveda who were having another benefit concert for Aldo. I offered help in the promotions.

But dealing with the girls was a bad experience. They had good intentions, but obviously, they weren't prepared to organize the event. I remember telling Jerome, "*Kung di ko lang mahal si Aldo!*" So I wrote a short write-up in 2bU! about the girls asking for help. I was always in contact with Cams, one of the Povedans, to update me with their progress just in case they needed help. We looked forward to the concert and Aldo's recovery.

Dreadful message

"TAMMY, ALDO PASSED AWAY. Sender: Cams." I froze when I read this dreadful text message last May 14. I called Cams right away. She was crying. I went to Aldo's wake the following night. I left work in Makati right away to buy a Mass card and some dinner, then proceeded to Filinvest Commonwealth. Miraculously, I didn't mind the two-hour traffic going to Fairview because I was tired from work and preoccupied with thoughts. "God this is my first time to see Aldo in three years and he's dead," I told myself.

I felt like a stranger as I entered the chapel. All of his classmates and his family were there, but what was I there for? It was shattering for me to see the casket. I decided right away not to look at Aldo's body since I wanted to remember him as the guitarist who made girls' knees weak.

I saw Cathy Babao-Guballa, one of our lifestyle reporters and a teacher of the "Dynamics of Grief" at the Ateneo. She introduced me to Aldo's mom, who happened to be a former classmate of hers, as, you guessed it, a fan. It was bizarre talking to the mother of someone you admired. I just had to admit, "Yeah, your son was pretty good looking." I told her my Aldo story and she told me it made her happy to hear all of these, how her son had affected a lot of people. She also asked for a copy of my now famous Aldo clip. At first I was hesitant because I was embarrassed with the stuff I said in the video ("Hottiee!"), but then I would do anything to make Aldo's mom happy.

It has been almost a week since Aldo passed away; I'm not depressed but still bothered by it. I have already dealt with grief a million times (my *barkada* died in Grade 7, another friend died when I was a junior), but in this case it's different because I never knew the person.

When I was watching those Rico Yan specials, I was making fun of the fans who were so passionate about their idol. How they would wail in the camera, "*Ma-mimiss ko si Ricooo! Napakabait!*" I thought it was "OA," but I now realize I had no right to make fun of them because what I'm feeling now is the same as theirs.

Up to the day Aldo died, I was hoping he would get better so I could finally meet him. But now that Aldo is gone, I can talk to him without practice, I can finally tell him how gorgeous he looked during the Battle of the Bands without feeling embarrassed, and I can thank him that because of what happened, I had tried to make a difference, I met his friends who were all wonderful people, and I am more thankful for my blessings.

I used to feel so useless, having these hang-ups about not being a young achiever and not reaching my goal in time. But after Aldo's death, I am more thankful and caring now because when my time comes, I bet only a handful will remember me as that young writer or Ms. *Kengkoy* in high school. But I want to be remembered as someone who affected people's lives in a good way. Just like Aldo.

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Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500
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Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—
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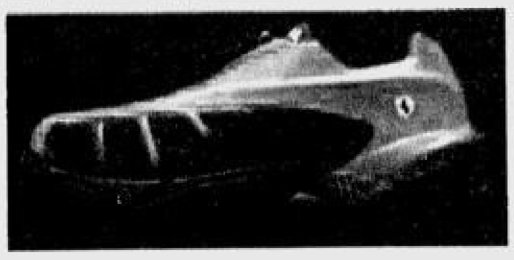
Mercury rising—and falling



Fila Ferrari shoes—Red hot racing shoes inspired and designed by Michael Schumacher. If they're good for the racetrack then they must be good for you, too.

Spider-Man vs. Star Wars—One thing the two have in common: they have the entire nerd federation trying to figure who defied the laws of Physics more. Although Spider-Man failed to live up to the book (Where on earth did the costume come from? And no, the webs did not come from his wrist), George Lucas' latest Star Wars installment is a bigger disappointment, with a love story lacking in chemistry, and a CGI-Yoda doing more than just levitating.

Wonder Woman—Pursuing the subject of super heroes, here's one we'd like to see, the daughter of Diana, the one with the mighty magic lasso and golden tiara. Who else? Wonder Woman! 2bU! thinks Lucy Liu would be perfect for the part. Let's cross our fingers and hop into our invisible jets.

Anton Ramos, the man behind Tower Records and M1, is releasing his latest chill-out project CD, under Sony. Good news for lovers of chill.

MYX's new time slot: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anna Paredes and Franco Mabanta get on board as VJ's, but Kaz, Clara, and Jon bid adieu. Michi Valeriano stays.

Mode+L, a show produced by Runway Productions and hosted by Bianca Araneta, Bianca Valerio, Anna Shier and Vernes Buckley on Channel 13, is giving F (with Cher, Daphne and Angel) some competition.

Dyesebel—It was torture enough seeing Alice Dixson's version of the Philippine movie industry's favorite *serena*. Now, does this generation have to bear the squeaky, irritating voice and fake boobs of Rica Peralejo? We are looking forward to a majestic mermaid, not a screeching sea lion.

The "surprise" encore at Slapshock and Rivermaya's acoustic concert—A guy jerking off in a washroom, women's boobs, a "talking" vagina. To the one responsible for the indecent exposure: there are other venues to show off that kind of work not a concert where 18-and-below children, and their parents, are present. Besides, if you want to flaunt your stuff, there are more tasteful ways to do it.

Greenhills paid parking—It's a flat P20 rate. What separates it from monster malls is its parking tickets aren't computerized and your car bakes in the sun while you shop.

Hero mania—For a generation obsessed with the Hall of Justice superheroes and friends, here's a good sampling of what to expect: Incredible Hulk, Flash, Fantastic Four and more. In a world besieged with chaos, we do need super heroes.

Globe Prepaid international service—More reason to pursue a long-distance relationship.

Classes will start after Independence Day, if more schools listen to the DECS, that is. Hurrah! More time to relax, hit the malls and fry our brains in front of our boob tubes. Also, there's nothing more unnerving than the start-and-stop of returning to school then going on holiday again in two days.

Alicia Silverstone's Kamiseta ads allegedly drove the clothing company's sales up. The grapevine is now abuzz with rumors that another big local clothing chain is thinking of tapping singer Mandy Moore to wear their products. *Pare, ano ba naman yan...parang walang magandang* model *dito sa 'Pinas?*

Secret deodorant. When buying the product, make sure you check the expiration date. Those sold in two convenience stores expired more than two months ago.

Too much smoke in clubs. We want to dance, not suffocate. At last week's "Gatecrasher" party at the NBC tent, no one could breathe, much less enjoy the music with the death-threatening smog that filled the place.

Rexona's commercials. It's disgusting, it's sick, and we can't even walk down the deodorant aisle without cringing at the thought of the ad. Have some taste.

Top 40 radio stations and their choice of OPM tunes. Having Cheese's "Mottaka" on their play list, then refusing to play a slow Imago number "because it's rock" is just plain dumb. You can put on Linkin Park and blast Creed but you can't put The itchyworms! on air?! It's no surprise OPM is slowly dying everyday.

Christopher De Leon. Stop mocking your contestants, stop making those little faces, stop trying to be cute. You're not.

In The Bedroom. Talk about waste of money. Most of the people leaving the cinemas Sunday night were all grumbling. The more outspoken of the lot were heard saying, "*Sayang oras. Sana natulog na lang ako sa bahay.*" "*Pa-*reimburse *natin.*" "*Karapat-dapat tulugan.*" "I had to pay P120 just to see this film?" "It was trying too hard to be profound." Other people looked at the movie posters again in disbelief. "Watched it twice, it still haunts me," one critic said. Ha. Whatever. And they had the gall to proclaim this movie as one of the best American films for 2002?

Miss Universe 2002 forecast

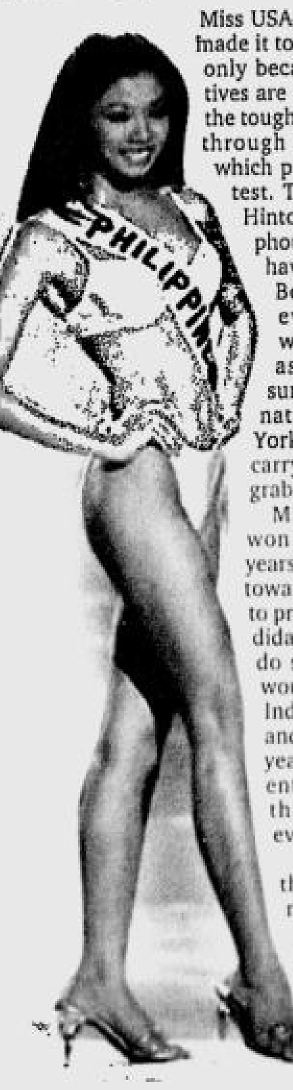
By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

TOMORROW, 75 of the most beautiful women in the world will compete for the title of Miss Universe. For two years in a row, it will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Latinas may win the judges' favor. In fact, last year, most of the delegates that made it to the top 10 had Latin features, with the host country's representative bringing home the crown. However, a look at this year's candidates shows that black beauties are ready to dominate the international beauty pageant scene. Even countries like the United States and yes, Sweden, are sending black representatives. 2bU! forecasts the possible semi-finalists this year.

PUERTO RICO

Sure bets

Miss USA—For the last 17 years, USA has made it to the top 10 (except in 1999). Not only because their country's representatives are always articulate, but because of the tough competition they have had to get through in the Miss USA competition, which prepares them for the bigger contest. This year's contestant, Shauntay Hinton, is an easy pick. She may not be photogenic, but some of her pictures have a resemblance to actress Halle Berry. Also, for her preliminary evening gown competition, she wore a stunning white metallic asymmetrical gown that would surely boost her chances. As for her national costume, she wore a New York fire department uniform while carrying the US flag. Very attention-grabbing.



Miss India—Since Sushmita Sen won the Miss Universe crown eight years ago, the world has turned its eyes toward India. Every year, it is expected to produce the best Miss Universe candidates, and the country never fails to do so. A look at their local contest would show why. Finalists in the Miss India contest are eloquent, graceful and witty. And Neha Dhupia, the 21 year-old MTV India VJ, is no different. Expect for her to shine in all three—interview, swimsuit and evening gown competitions.

Miss Puerto Rico—Critics think that Miss Puerto Rico isn't top 10 material, but we think otherwise. Isis Marie Casalduc has a sweet smile that goes well with her perfect body. This 5'8" already won first runner-up in the national costume competition and was trained under 1995 Miss Universe finalist Desiree Lowry, also of Puerto Rico. Her blue-green evening gown during the preliminaries could have been more flattering, though.

Miss Venezuela—What's a top 10 forecast without Miss Venezuela? Although it's pretty clear that she isn't as stunning as her predecessors like Minorka Mercado (1994) and Veruska Ramirez (1997), Cynthia Zamora was highly trained for this competition. This 19 year-old 5'11" English tutorial student has an absolutely killer body.

Miss Colombia—It's just two years since Colombia made it to the top 10, but still, the country hasn't been as visible in the semifinals as India and Venezuela. However, this year, it appears that Vanessa Mendoza is ready to nail the crown. This black beauty, the second black Colombian representative since 1995, looks like a human Barbie doll, especially during the preliminary evening gown competition. In one of her interviews, she cited the Colombian army as her hero, saying that the soldiers help foster peace. It's a tried and tested answer, but it works.

Possible qualifiers

Miss Germany—This country is generally unheard of in the beauty pageant circle, but things may change with this year's entry, Natscha Borger. This 5'11" University of Hamburg student is a dead-ringer for Pamela Anderson, but thinner (and therefore sexier). It would be a shame not to see her in the top 10.

Miss Russia—They may not speak English, but previous representatives of Russia have actually done well in the Miss Universe. Since 1990, when they first joined Miss Universe, they've been in the top 10 four times, including last year. This year's Russian representative looks a bit like Lana Asanin and wore a cute evening gown during the preliminaries.

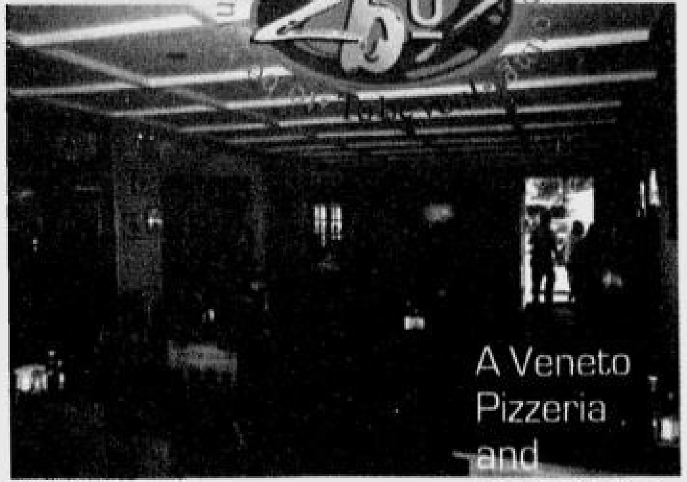
Miss Nigeria—Just 18 years old, but standing at 5'11", Chiniye Ochuba is definitely a stunner. Last year's Miss Nigeria was also a finalist in the competition and went on to become Miss World. It may be a hard act to follow, but with Ochuba's good looks, a repeat is not exactly impossible.

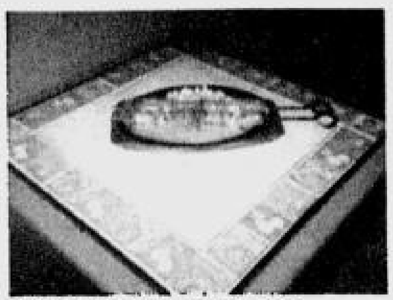
Miss Brazil—She's a major favorite this year, and it's not hard to see why. Joseane Oliveira is 5'11 and went to the German College in Caracas, Venezuela. That gives her the edge in terms of relating well to different types of people.

Miss Jamaica—If you like Sarah of "Survivor: Marquesas," you'll also like Sanya Hughes of Jamaica. Jamaica never had a Miss Universe winner before, but Sanya may just make the cut this year. Based on the pictures we saw, she projects well and that's a good sign.

Miss Philippines—Trained in Venezuela just a few weeks before she went to Puerto Rico, Karen Agustin has good chances. According to the website www.globalbeauties. com, she was one of the well-applauded contestants during the swimsuit preliminaries. Her interview in the Miss Universe website is also fairly decent. Her evening gown and swimsuit photos showed her in good form as well.

DINING à la Sims at Federico's


A Veneto


FEDERICO'S grilled Spanish skewers

Havens *for* Italian *and* Spanish foodies

A Veneto Pizzeria and Federico's are delicious but cheap alternatives for Latin-prone tastes

By Melissa R. Lim
2bU! Correspondent

AL fresco at Federico's

NOT having enough money to go to the mall every day has made me a hangout connoisseur of sorts. Not knowing how to cook has made me appreciate food even more. Imagine my great delight at finding out that I have not one, but two good eating places right outside my village and perfectly near my school for the days when I just cannot stomach cafeteria food.

A Veneto Pizzeria Ristorante

If you're just another student surviving on a paltry allowance, your definition of fine dining can get a bit skewed. A Veneto, a short ride from UP Diliman and the Katipunan schools, would be a great alternative to your usual blah-lunch routine.

The outside isn't much to look at, but it is cold, cozy and clean inside.

Perhaps what makes Veneto so popular is that it makes Italian food accessible to almost anyone. They have arguably the best Nut Pesto selection of any other Italian place in the city, costing around P140 and serving two to three people. Now that I think about it, they have wide selections of everything on their menu.

Pizza is at around P50 per slice. If you're feeling picky, you can customize your own pizza. If you don't have a preference, try ordering pepperoni, bacon and extra cheese. A Veneto uses fresh tomatoes and Italian olive oil.

Half-pound burgers average at P110. Refillable iced tea at P35 is probably the cheapest I've ever come across. They also have bottomless Coke, Sprite and Barq's for the same price. There is also quite a variety of hot and cold heros to choose from averaging at P90.

If you want the best bang for your buck, this is the place to go. If you're not starving, P100 in this place should do you quite nicely.

Federico's

Federico's has been open for almost a year now but I only took to going there recently, thinking it was going to be expensive. The entrance is not really all that inviting—it's basically an orange arch over a gate with a small path leading inside.

The very first time I actually went in, I fell completely in love with the place. It's an old house converted into a restaurant, not very much unlike Melo's on Wilson, Greenhills. If you play The Sims on your computer, you'd appreciate the fact that something about their interior reminds me of the game.

The dark orange walls are easy—if not soothing—to the eyes. The chairs are comfortable, and the tables, I have to say, are quite unique. The paintings are good conversation pieces so if you decide to bring a date and run out of things to talk about, you can always try being pseudo-profound about them. (Of course, I take no responsibility for anything—*especially* if you fail miserably and end up with your date laughing at you for the rest of the night.)

Of everything, I fell in love with their garden the most. It's small, quaint and private. It's beautiful at nighttime, especially by candlelight, which you can have by request. It's a perfect first-date material, especially since it's still not a very popular place. If you're lucky, you can have the entire garden all to yourselves.

If the date bombs, you can at least comfort yourself with the food. Federico's boasts the first fusion cuisine in the Visayas Avenue area. They have amazing Paella Federico and Grilled Spanish Skewers, P295 and P150, respectively. I go insane over their Salpicao de Federico, which I find to be quite a steal at P130. My friends vouch for the Grilled Lemongrass Chicken (P160) and Lengua con Champignon (P150). They have bottomless iced tea for P40 so thirst shouldn't be a problem.

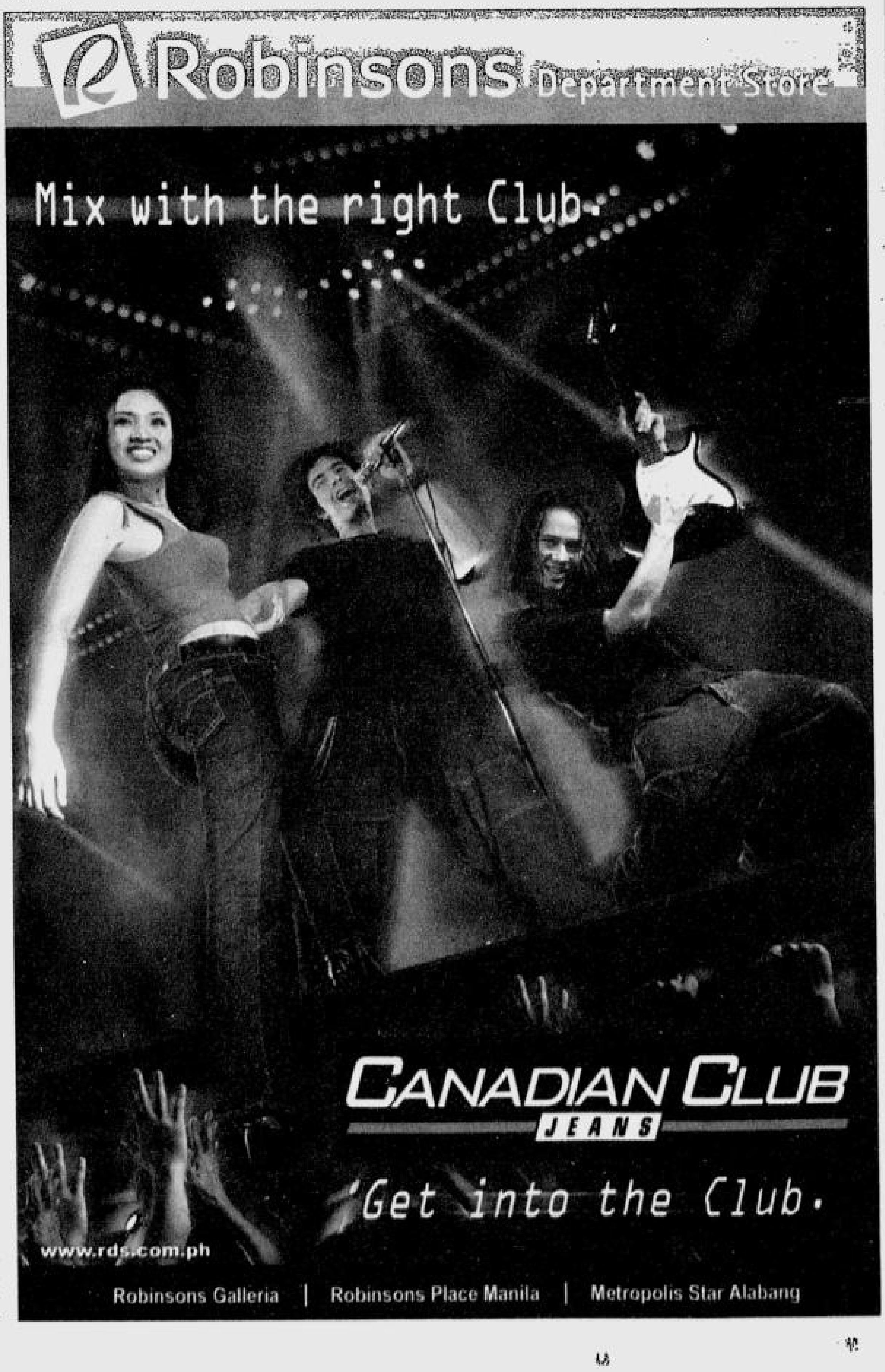
They have "executive meals" between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for P100. You get your choice of viand, rice and a glass of iced tea. If you decide to go there to eat but can't make the 11-to-2 thing, I suggest you have at least P200 in your wallet or you won't be walking back out full.

Worth it

Both located on Visayas Avenue, QC, they're not very accessible to most folks. But Veneto has four other branches you can visit: Wilson, Greenhills; Commonwealth, Fairview; Alabang Zapote; and Timog-Tomas Morato. They have plans of opening a branch in Baguio. The Visayas Avenue branch is open from 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays, and 5-11 p.m. on Sundays.

Federico's is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and 6-10 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays. Federico's, unfortunately, stands alone, but I still insist that either one is worth the trip. But then again, I could be biased. Both restaurants are just 10 minutes away from home.

E-mail the author at thatgirl622@yahoo.com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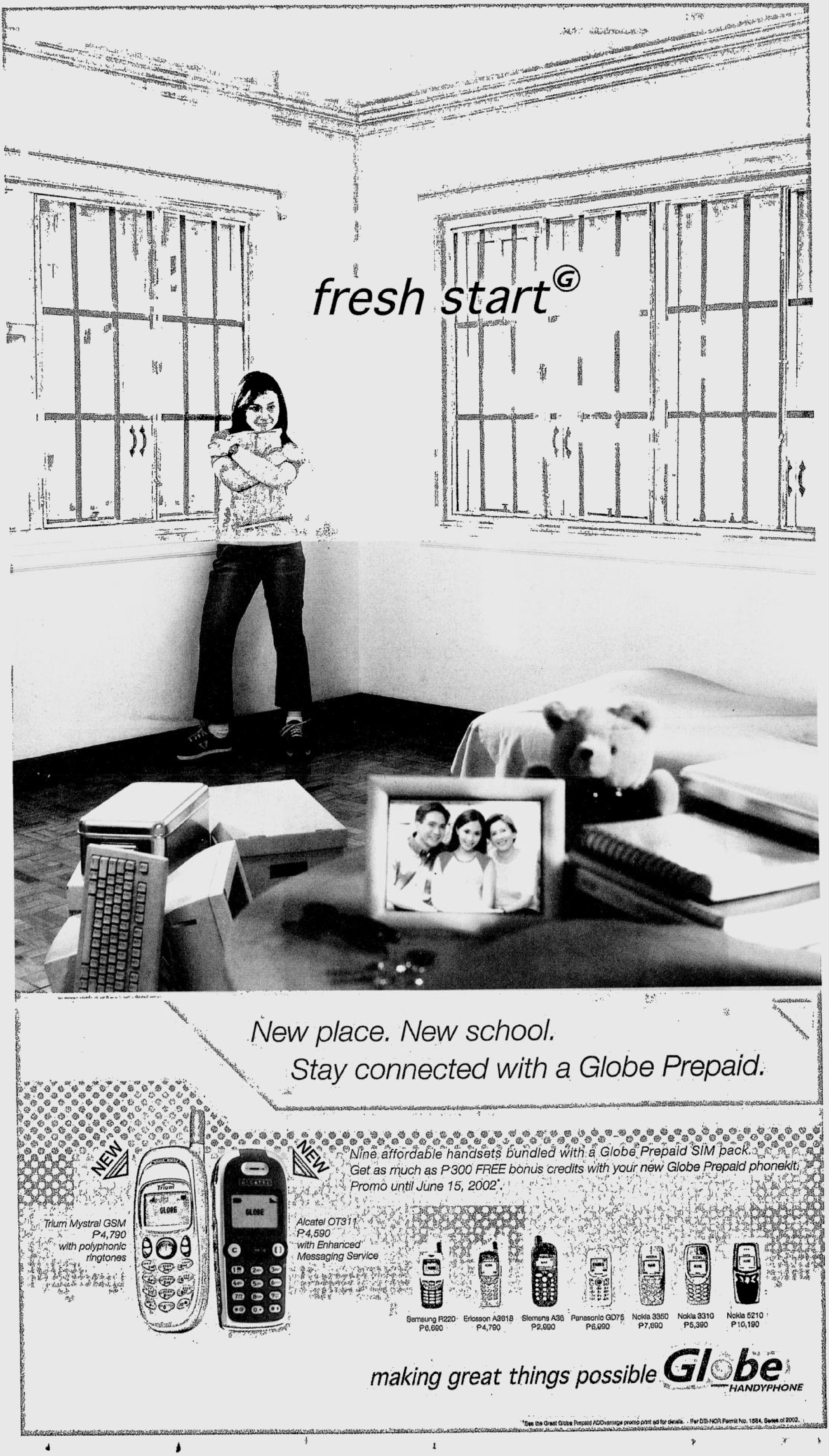

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GMA: No to Meralco takeover, no to extra powers

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Ong to Lacson: Lord will soon take you

By TJ Burgonio

WITNESSES in the alleged rubout of 11 suspected Kuratong Baleleng gang members in 1995 expressed dismay over the Supreme Court's decision to remand the case to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

"It looks like a case of delaying tac-

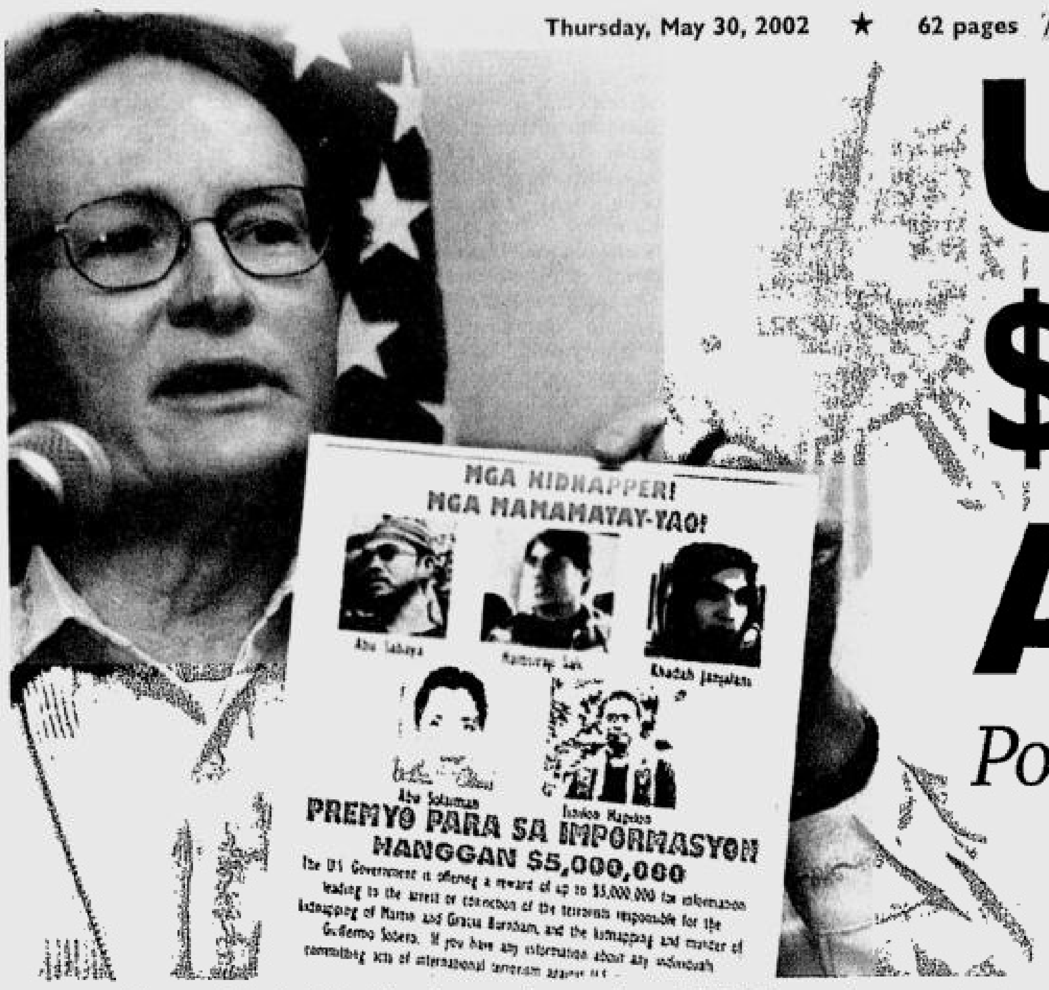
ONG/A17

Ping, judge thank God for SC decision

By Michael Lim Ubac and Rocky Nazareno

"GOD is with us," a beaming Sen. Panfilo Lacson told reporters yesterday, after the Supreme Court ordered a Quezon City trial judge to determine whether the government's revival of the Kuratong Baleleng cases fell outside

PING/A17


MGA KIDNAPPER!
MGA MAMAMATAY-TAO!
PREMYO PARA SA IMPORMASYON
HANGGAN $5,000,000

"THEY'RE kidnappers! They're killers!" reads a reward poster shown by US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista to reporters.

AFP

US offers $5M for top Abu leaders

Power of almighty dollar tested

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

USE of its sophisticated equipment having proved fruitless, the United States has unleashed the power of the greenback against the bandit group that continues to hold an American missionary couple hostage in the Basilan jungle.

In a news briefing yesterday at the US Embassy in Manila, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone announced that the US Department of State was offering up to $5 million for information that would lead to the capture of any or all five leaders of the bandit group. "We believe that ordinary citizens of the Philippines or elsewhere may have information that can help bring the Abu Sayyaf terrorists to justice," he said.

The reward was put up for the heads of Khadaffy Janjalani alias Abu Muktar, Jainal Antel Sali alias Abu Solayman, Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, Isnilon Hapilon alias Abu Musab, and Hamsiraji Marusi Sali alias Jose Ramirez.

Ricciardone urged tipsters to call the US Embassy toll-free at 1-800-10-739-2737 or at 526-9832, 526-9833 or 526-9834.

"We are taking this step in support of, and following, a similar program of the government of the Republic of the Philippines," he said, apparently in reference to the $100,000 bounty put up last year by the Philippine government for the bandits' capture.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said as much, noting that the reward program announced by Ricciardone "complements" that of the Philippine government.

"The reward was decided after prior consultation with the Philippine government," Golez said. He also said it "includes prosecution within Philippine jurisdiction."

In Malacaña[illegible] acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the US Federal Bureau of Investiga-

US/A6

Officials deny encounter between US troops, bandits

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Philippine and US military officials yesterday denied that, as earlier reported by the Philippine military, two US Navy helicopters opened fire Monday night on suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf after being shot at during a training exercise.

"It's not true," said Philippine Marine Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, director of Filipino troops training with US soldiers under Balikatan 02-1. "There was a medical evacuation exercise. The helicopters were not fired upon and there was no exchange of gunfire."

US Air Force Maj. Richard Sater, spokesperson for US troops in Western Mindanao, said it was a training exercise in which the two Pave Hawk helicopters were firing.

"It was not a hostile fire situation," Sater said. "It was a coordinated aerial demonstration. They (the helicopter crew) were firing blanks."

But Sater would not say if there was mock fire from the ground as well.

About 1,000 US troops have been deployed in Western Mindanao to help local soldiers in their hunt for the Abu Sayyaf. But the US role is limited to

OFFICIALS/A6

VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT Macapagal views the two speedboats confiscated by the Philippine Navy from the Abu Sayyaf during the command's 104th founding anniversary celebration. With her are Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Wife of OFW in Kuwait murder runs to President

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A schoolteacher yesterday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to help her husband whom a Kuwaiti court sentenced the other day to life imprisonment for the murder of a Canadian last October.

Defense lawyers of Teddy Tomaro, who had pleaded not guilty to the charge, argued in court that the four-month trial was a farce.

"What will we do? My husband has not done anything wrong. He is innocent," said Raema Tomaro, a Grade 2 teacher at the Jorge L. Araneta Elementary School in Bago City, 21 km south of this city.

"My God, why have they done this to him. We have three young children and they deserve to grow up with a father," she told the INQUIRER.

The Tomaros have three children—14-year-old Rhoda May and 13-year-old twins Shenny Pearl and Sherry Joy. They live in Barangay Tangub, Bacolod.

Her husband has been working as a mechanical plumber at the Al Fintas Tower in Kuwait

WIFE/A6

GMA: No to takeover of Meralco, extra powers

By Dona Pazzibugan, Christine Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

NO to a takeover of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and no to emergency powers to bring down the cost of electricity.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday took this position on the twin proposals aimed at reducing the high electricity rates in the country.

"It will be more inefficient if the government takes over (Meralco)," Ms Macapagal said over Bombo Radyo.

Unperturbed by the President's stance, 38 members of the House of Representatives filed a bill seeking a government takeover of Meralco because of its unauthorized charges and high electricity rates.

In a parallel move, nine House members filed a resolution urging the committee on legislative franchises to recall or review the approval of Meralco's application for the renewal of its legislative franchise. The House approved last March a bill extending Meralco's franchise, which will expire in December, to 2028.

In the Senate, administration and opposition senators are supporting the President's position on Meralco, saying there is no basis for a government takeover of the utility firm at this time.

Senators are also rejecting

GMA/A17

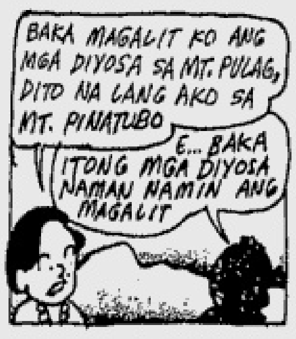
Gloria skips Pulag

By Carlito Pablo

SELLING the country as a tourism destination is literally an uphill climb. Just ask the country's chief tourist guide.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced a change in her plans to go mountain-climbing next month, after some sectors

GLORIA/A17


BAKA MAGALIT KO ANG MGA DIYOSA SA MT. PULAG, DITO NA LANG AKO SA MT. PINATUBO
E... BAKA ITONG MGA DIYOSA NAMAN NAMIN ANG MAGALIT

'Gay priests OK if they don't engage in sex'

THE CATHOLIC Church does not frown upon gay priests so long as they don't engage in homosexual acts, Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela yesterday said.

"Priests who are homosexual, if they are merely so oriented but not practicing, have a place in the Church," Varela said in a statement.

"Sometimes it is not the fault of the person thus oriented. Homosexuality as an orientation is not sinful. It is the practice of homosexuality that the Church condemns," he said.

The Church is less lenient on priests who sexually abuse minors.

Varela said priests proven to have engaged in pedophilia (sex with children) would be "immediately defrocked, and sent to a rehabilitation center."

"He is no longer allowed to exercise his priestly ministry, until and unless he is pronounced by competent authority as reformed and no longer dangerous," he said.

The former vice chair of the Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued the statement amid the sexual scandals involving priests.

Some priests have been accused of pedophilia and ephobilia (sex with male minors between 15 and 17) while others have been accused of siring children without providing them financial support.

Early this month, the CBCP apologized to the victims of sexual abuse by priests.

Varela noted that some priests discovered their homosexuality only after being ordained. "The Church is stuck

GAY/A6

LINAWIN DAPAT!

Solons grill peace makers

By Juliet L. Javellana

AFTER fencing with congressmen, presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita yesterday backed down on the controversial peace agreements signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

At the second hearing of the House defense committee, Ermita said the congressmen's objections to the use of the words "MILF camps/lines/positions/areas/communities" and the definition of MILF evacuees or refugees who would be allowed to return to their areas would be "refined" in the final peace accord with the rebel group.

"When we craft the final agreement, all these details will be properly addressed," Ermita said.

But while Ermita tried to mollify the congressmen, backdoor negotiator Norberto Gonzales remained defiant.

Zamboanga Rep. Celso Lobregat and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., committee chair, alternately pointed out that despite official denials, the seven agreements signed between 2001 and 2002 clearly and specifically mentioned MILF camps.

"Maybe we should rebuild the camps if you want it implemented that way," Gonzales retorted.

Gonzales also raised more apprehensions when he defined the "conflict-affected areas" over which the MILF would have police powers and authority to disburse funds "wherever they (MILF) are."

This prompted objections from House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Assistant Minority Leader Rolex Suplico and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso who said this could mean that the Muslim community in Quiapo or in other parts of Luzon could be included in the conflict-affected areas.

Padilla then urged the committee to invite the MILF to the hearing to explain the agreements instead.

The congressmen appeared to have scored a victory when Ermita and Gonzales failed to contradict the mention of MILF camps in the agreements.

Ermita and Gonzales also admitted that armed MILF rebels could be among the evacuees or refugees that would be allowed to return to "their places of origin."

Lobregat stressed that despite a recommendation by former Southern Command Chief, now Vice Chief of Staff Gregorio Camiling, the agreements did not provide that only unarmed evacuees would be allowed to return to their areas.

Quoting Camiling's letter objecting to key provisions in various agreements, Lobregat said: "The government should not allow this otherwise, the place will once again become an MILF camp."

Lobregat suggested that Camiling was relieved as Southcom chief because of his opposition to the provisions of the agreements recognizing and rehabilitating the MILF camps.

In the hearing, Lobregat said the implementing guidelines on the security aspect of the agreements provided for MILF powers over MILF lines/positions or areas/communities.

He said a ceasefire agreement signed on Feb. 10, 1999 had the two panels acknowledging camps Abubakar, Assidique and Bushra as MILF camps to be covered by the ceasefire.

All past accords

Lobregat said that while this was agreed upon during the Estrada administration, agreements signed by Gonzales mentioned that "all past agreements" would be honored.

Camiling also testified during the hearing that he, as Southcom commander, objected to this provision in recent agreements.

Gonzales argued that the "realities on the ground (are that) there are no more MILF camps."

Gloria says MILF can have NGO to manage rehab fund

By Carlito Pablo

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front can set up their own nongovernment organizations to secure and manage funds from government and foreign aid sources for the rehabilitation of communities destroyed by the all-out war waged by the Estrada administration.

This was spelled out yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo as she reiterated for the "umpteenth time my instructions . . . to move forward in the rehabilitation and development in conflict-affected areas" in Mindanao.

"The MILF, being made up of Filipinos, have the legal right to form NGOs to initiate and determine and submit project proposals for funding," Ms Macapagal said in her speech at the 104th anniversary of the Philippine Navy.

"And if these project proposals are approved by other Filipinos, if they accept that they are Filipinos, they (MILF) have the right to manage the proposed project once approved," she added.

Ms Macapagal said the MILF could tap funds from the government and those comprising Overseas Development Assistance.

Conduits

MACAPAGAL

The President, however, stressed that the funds "shall be conduited" either through the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or the Southern Philippines Development Authority.

The rehabilitation and development of areas affected by the war, including so-called MILF "camps" recovered by the military in 2000, is provided for in the controversial May 7 agreement signed by Palace "back-channel" negotiator Norberto Gonzales with the MILF.

Gonzales also signed another agreement dated May 6, which covers cooperation with the MILF in the campaign against criminal gangs, particularly kidnap-for-ransom groups.

In her speech, President Macapagal said that she was "repeating and expanding or explaining further" her instructions in connection with these agreements because of "deliberate or otherwise harmful conjectures" on the accords.

Ms Macapagal said the May 7 agreement is in fact a "fait accompli" because evacuees have already returned to their "places of origin or settled in their new homes" before it was signed.

The President said the accord "only put in writing what has already been done in actual practice."

She again strongly denied that the agreement is tantamount to giving back to the MILF the camps captured by government forces in 2000.

Core houses

President Macapagal also said that the reparations mentioned in the agreement constitute only "core shelter units" for families whose houses were destroyed in the course of the fighting.

In his regular briefing, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the Palace is unfazed by the supposed threat by lawmakers to block the release of funds for such reparations.

Afable said the funds being used at present are already in the allocated yearly budgets of different government agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Moro leader seeks death for GenSan blast suspect

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—An influential Muslim leader said here yesterday that Abu Muslim Alghazie, the suspected brains behind the mall bombing that killed 15 persons in this city in April, should be meted the death penalty.

Ustadz Pendi Colano, Moro National Liberation Front leader operating in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area, said only the death of Alghazie, whose real name is Ustadz Noor Mohammad Umog, would appease the families of his victims.

Since the bombing on April 21 at the Fitmart mall here, several persons all claiming to be Alghazie had been arrested by police.

This time, authorities said, Umog is the real Alghazie, the alias of the man wanted in connection with the deadly bombing.

But Colano said that while he wants Umog to get the death penalty, the government should consult the victims' families about what to do with the suspect.

"Give the victims' families an opportunity to decide his fate," Colano said.

Umog, also known as Abu Hamdi, was believed to be the head of the Abu Sayyaf special operations group engaged in extortion and other criminal acts.

He was tagged as the mastermind of the Fitmart bombing that also injured more than 60 others.

Colano said the Muslim community here heaved a sigh of relief after the news of Umog's arrest spread.

"We felt vindicated. At least his (Umog) capture cleared away the doubts cast by some sectors on the Muslim community," he said.

Hadji Nasser Tumbaga, father of blast victim Jack Tumbaga and a Muslim, urged authorities to hand Umog over to the victims' relatives.

Tumbaga said that under Sharia law, Umog deserves the death penalty for killing innocent women, children and elderly persons, but "he should not be given his day in court. Just hand him over to us and we know what to do with him."

Colano asked the police to withdraw charges and release immediately five Muslim men who were apprehended shortly after the bombing.

The five—Molikin Ambe, Bobby Sabilo, Jejhon Macalinsal, Alson Ginta and Abubakar Amilhasan—were arrested by police led by Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police director, a few hours after the blast.

The men's families have insisted the police got the wrong suspects. They also denounced the cops for allegedly planting evidence against the men.

The five have been charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives before the courts here. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

3 PDI scholars named

THREE juniors in the College of Mass Communication of the University of the Philippines have been chosen University Scholars of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for schoolyears 2002 to 2004.

The scholars are Jamie Rose Alarcon, 18, of Bangkal, Makati City; Charlene C. Tordesillas, 20, of Taytay, Rizal; and Dewey Joseph G. Yap, 19, of Quezon City.

Sandy P. Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc., signed the scholarship agreements with the three scholars yesterday.

The INQUIRER will pay the tuition and other fees of the scholars for the schoolyears 2002 to 2004. The scholars will each also get a monthly stipend of P500 and a lump-sum allowance of P1,000 a year for books and school supplies.

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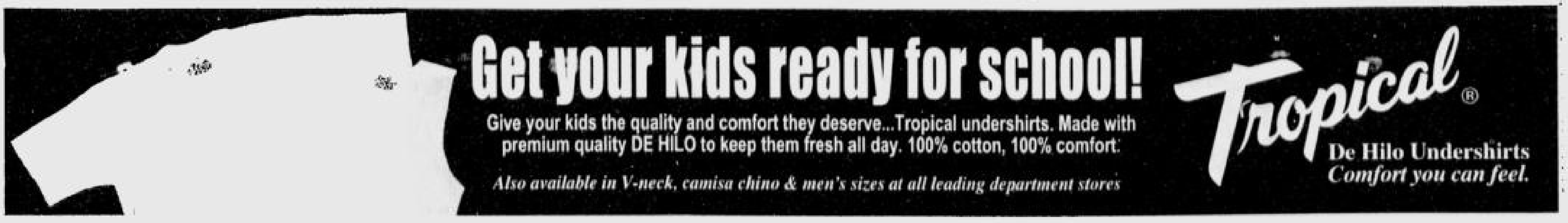
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'UNDUE INFLUENCE'

Palace hit for hosting witnesses vs Estrada

By Volt Contreras

MALACAÑANG drew criticism from the court-appointed lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada for hosting former impeachment trial witnesses early in 2001, back when criminal cases where being readied against their just-ousted client.

They see that move by the Macapagal administration as "undue influence" on the witnesses to testify again, this time in Estrada's Sandiganbayan trial.

This was after Edelquinn Nantes revealed in court that she and fellow officers of Equitable PCIBank got "invitations" from the Palace for a social gathering with the just installed President Macapagal and her Cabinet.

It was an admission which Estrada's Partido ng Masa ng Pilipino branded as a blooper of sorts in the prosecution's "script."

"This only confirms the opposition's long-time pronouncement that Malacañang has a hand in the prosecution of Estrada," a PMP statement in Filipino said.

During direct examination, Nantes, branch manager of EPCIB-Timog, Quezon City, said yes when Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval asked whether she had ever been invited to Malacañang "by the President."

But while most of the courtroom audience presumed that Sandoval was referring to then President Estrada, Nantes said the invitation actually came from President Macapagal.

Defense lawyers immediately worked on this lead when their turn came to grill Nantes.

Estrada counsels Prospero Crescini and Manuel Pamaran made Nantes admit that the invitation was made in writing and that the gathering took about two hours in Malacañang.

With the President and Cabinet members playing host, the EPCIB witnesses were in high spirits throughout the whole affair, Nantes added.

But when further pressed for details, Nantes said he had forgotten many other things about the event.

The witness said she could no longer recall when exactly the gathering took place except that it was "early 2001."

Neither could she recall if they were treated to breakfast, lunch or dinner. She also claimed to have also forgotten the Cabinet members then present, or who signed the written invitations.

But Nantes said among the EPCIB officials who went to Malacañang then were Clarissa Ocampo and Manuel Curato—key impeachment trial witnesses against Estrada—along with several other branch managers like her.

After the hearing, Crescini said by feting the anti-Estrada witnesses, "the sitting President (Macapagal) had gone too far."

Malacañang's invitation, he said, constituted "undue influence made in a very subtle way to encourage them to testify again, this time in the criminal trial of Estrada."

To Pamaran, "*delicadeza* dictates that they should not have been invited."

"She could perfectly remember account numbers (of alleged 'jueteng' money) but not the time of the day when they met in Malacañang," Noel Malaya, another defense lawyer, said of Nantes.

Also in the hearing, EPCIB-Diliman branch manager Rosario Bautista reprised her impeachment trial testimony, narrating how Yolanda Ricaforte accumulated P77 million in deposits at her branch from November 1999 to April 2000.

Ricaforte, the alleged "auditor" of Estrada's "jueteng" payola collections, was a walk-in client who opened a savings account with an initial cash deposit of P500,000, the witness said.

Her subsequent deposits made in the next few months included the following:

- Two PCIBbank checks worth a total P70 million issued by "William Gatchalian;" Ricaforte claimed the amount represented proceeds of a sale of property to Gatchalian.
- A P1-million Metrobank check issued by former Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson;
- A P1.6-million check from Philippine National Bank, Naga City branch;
- Additional cash deposits of P4.5 million.

By February 2000, Ricaforte had upgraded her savings account to a "special savings account" to earn higher interest, Bautista said. For the SSA, Ricaforte moved P77 million from her old savings account.

On April 13, 2000, Ricaforte applied for a cashier's check for that P77 million and then deposited it to another EPCIB branch at Pacific Star building in Makati City, Bautista added.

No jewelry for Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sounded off would-be bribers.

At a conference on governance and ethics in Makati yesterday, she said she does not accept "gifts" of jewelry and shares of stock from lobbyists.

She told the audience, mostly businessmen, that she received jewelry for the first time shortly after she became vice president.

"I swiftly returned them," she said.

She said she learned from the example of her mother, former First Lady Eva Macapagal, who received many gifts while in Malacañang.

She said on her mother's first birthday in Malacañang, she was given, among other things, "lots of shares of stock in a particular corporation" which she politely returned.

Another time, she said she saw her mother return a huge diamond ring given her by a businessman.

ERRATUM

The venue of Gift Gates' Aloha Kitty Live Show (May 29 - 31)carried in This Week at SM Supermalls ad published today May 30 front page of life section c should have read SM CITY NORTH EDSA (instead of SM Southmall). Our apologies.

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Solons move to fight Tancangco impeachment

TANCANGCO

A GROUP of congressmen is planning to file a resolution expressing support for controversial election commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and seeking their colleagues support.

This as Congress moves closer to impeach Tancangco, with 55 congressmen now endorsing an impeachment complaint to be filed against her next week.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said that he and four other congressmen thought of filing the resolution of support for Tancangco because they disagreed that the problem in the Commission on Elections can be simply resolved by impeaching her.

In the proposed resolution initiated by Villarama, it noted that the "view" that Tancangco was to blame for the squabbling in Comelec was "without factual basis."

The resolution also noted that the "conflicts in the Comelec cannot be solved by the impeachment of one commissioner on grounds which she had allegedly committed by herself, when in truth and in fact, she was implementing a collective decision of a collegial body such as the Comelec."

"The resolution also seeks to manifest the Chamber's sense of fairness in the ongoing problems with Comelec and to support (Tancangco's) right to due process without being subjected to trial by publicity."

Villarama said that he had yet to gather the signatures of his colleagues on this resolution. But he said that the four other congressmen supportive of this were Representatives Prospero Pichay, Alan Peter Cayetano, Joel Villanueva and Rufino Biazon.

He said that he was supportive of Tancangco because he knew her since she was teaching in the University of the Philippines and had always found her to be professional, clean and upright.

Villarama and Pichay, in separate interviews, said that they did not agree with the bid of some congressmen, led by Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, to elevate the impeachment complaint against Tancangco to the Senate by gathering one-third of the House membership, or 77 congressmen to endorse it.

Arrest warrant issued vs solon

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S 5th Division yesterday issued a warrant of arrest against Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam in connection with a graft case filed against him as former vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The sheriff's office of the anti-graft court said Matalam, a first-termer, had sent word that he would post a P20,000 bail anytime today.

The case stemmed from Matalam's issuance of a writ of execution to the Clerk of Court/Provincial Sheriff of Lanao del Sur ordering the suspension of then provincial Gov. Mahid Mutilan in April 1998.

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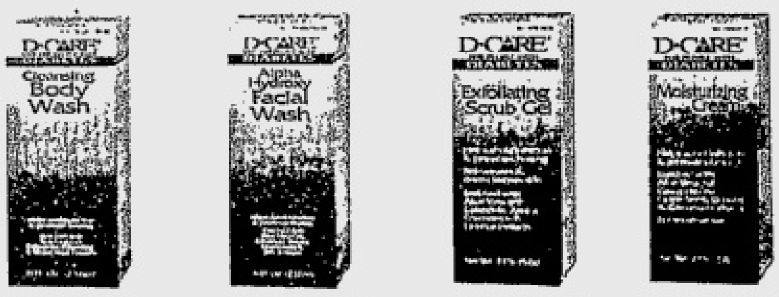
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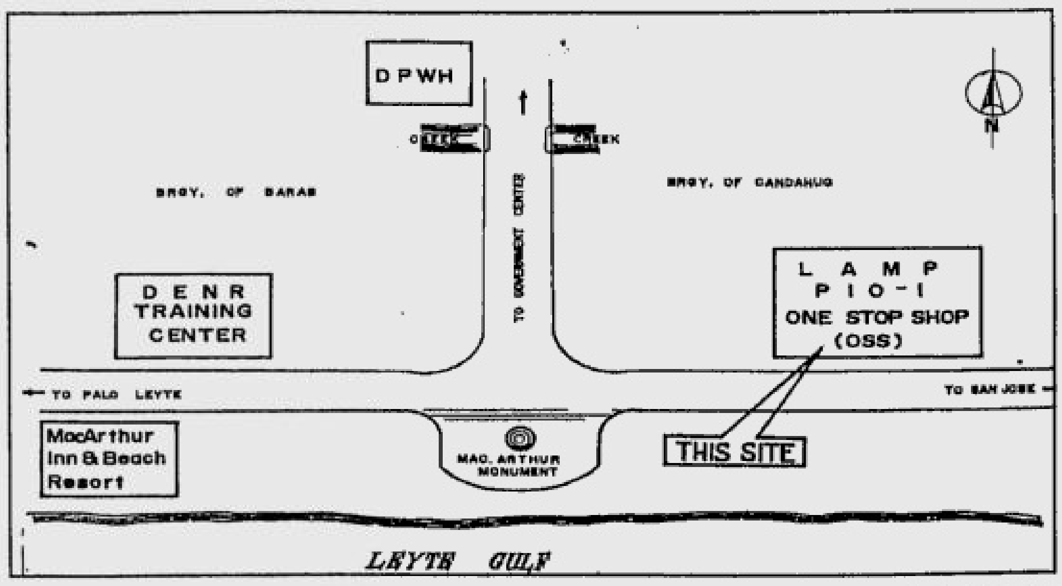

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I didn't accuse solons, says solon

By Juliet L. Javellana and Armand N. Nocum

CAMARINES Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. has clarified his recent allegation that some P21 billion of the government's P104-billion procurement fund was lost to graft committed by officials and lawmakers using their pork barrel funds.

"The rule in this chamber is that you don't ruffle feathers if you have unfinished business on the floor," said Andaya in a privileged speech yesterday, by way of explaining how he could not have accused his colleagues of partaking of the P21 billion in lost procurement funds.

Andaya said he would have to be a "world-class dimwit" to have made such a reckless charge, when he was courting bipartisan support for the passage of House Bill 4451 which seeks to overhaul the government procurement system to eradicate graft.

Instead, Andaya, the House appropriations committee chair, said the congressmen have been supportive of HB 4451 or the Government Procurement Reform Bill.

"Let me assure my colleagues that I would not be that reckless in making such a sweeping and unfounded accusation," Andaya said.

Andaya delivered the privileged speech to deny a recent INQUIRER report that said he had tagged legislators as being among those who pocketed P21 billion of the government's P104-billion procurement budget last year.

In sponsoring the procurement reform bill, Andaya had said that P21 billion of the procurement budget was lost to graft and corruption due to collusion, lack of transparency and competition and delays in the implementation of projects by legislators and Department of Public Works and Highways officials.

Including pork

Andaya said the procurement budget included all goods and services procured by the government, including the pork barrel projects of senators and congressmen.

He did not say, however, into whose pockets the P21 billion actually went.

The procurement reform bill, sponsored principally by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., majority leader Neptali Gonzales II, Rep. Charlie Cojuangco and Andaya, was introduced by the latter for second reading on Monday.

Andaya said he did not point to anybody in the P21-billion graft but to the "systematic loss of money through a flawed procurement system."

"In short, my critique was on the system, not on personalities," Andaya said.

He said it would be "fuzzy arithmetic" to suggest the senators and congressmen were responsible for a big chunk of the P21 billion being lost to graft, pointing out the pork barrel of congressmen amounted to only P11 billion.

In a talk with the INQUIRER, however, Andaya admitted he could not rule out the commission of graft by congressmen.

There's smoke

"Where there's smoke there's fire. Stories were prevalent about it for a long time so maybe there are some (who receive kickbacks) but you cannot prove it. There's no evidence of that," Andaya said.

In a separate interview with the INQUIRER, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong asked Andaya to cite specific cases where DPWH officials colluded with contractors in the procurement of goods and services.

"I appeal to him to name names so that we may be able to separate the bad eggs from the good ones," Datumanong said.

But for now, Datumanong said, "I have no information about it (corruption). If I had, I would have caused an investigation. But there is none. If there is anyone from within and without the DPWH who can tell me any instance of this, I will immediately call for an investigation."*With Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Braganza: Land is the answer

SAYING that land reform is the answer to the centuries-old problem of social unrest, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza announced that his department has exceeded its land distribution target as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program approaches its 14th anniversary.

Braganza said the Department of Agrarian Reform has distributed 109,661 hectares of land and has so far distributed 73 percent or 3,116,822 hectares of agricultural lands nationwide within the decade.

The department will celebrate the 14th anniversary of CARP on June 5 to June 15 with the theme "Building the Future Today."

Syjuco kicked out of House again

FOR the second time in three months, Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr. was expelled from a House session for un-parliamentary language and behavior.

The House sergeant at arms was ordered to escort Syjuco out of the session hall after he called his colleagues "jologs" (gauche) and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. "immoral and unjust" for allegedly allowing certain bills to be railroaded through Congress.

Syjuco had insisted on being given the floor to object to the way he was treated the previous day on his pork barrel query and to the passage of the securitization bill.

When he was ignored, Syjuco shouted to his colleagues: "*Huwag nating babuyin ang Kongreso*! (Let's not demean Congress.)"

Presiding speaker Gerry Salapuddin objected to Syjuco's "un-parliamentary language" and moved that the Iloilo congressman be brought before the House ethics committee.

As the congressmen proceeded to vote on a committee report, Syjuco interrupted them again on a point of order.

Salapuddin then ordered Syjuco's expulsion from the hall.

On Monday night, Syjuco's filibustering had led to the adjournment of the session by mistake.

Syjuco had risen to object to the speaker's move to have all congressmen contribute P5 million of their pork barrel to a P1-billion El Niño fund.

Syjuco said the move was merely grandstanding or a *pa-pogi* (looking good) posture and a *de bola* (hype) gimmick on De Venecia's part.

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano then stood up to challenge Syjuco and this led to a nasty exchange.

Syjuco called Albano *sipsip* (bootlicker), whereupon Salapuddin asked that this be stricken off the record.

Syjuco agreed but suggested that the word be changed to "ingratiating." *Juliet L. Javellana*

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US offers $5M for top Abu leaders

From page A1

tion was "welcome" to help in the arrest of the bandit leaders covered by the reward that the US Embassy had announced.

"They (the FBI) have been here before and if they want to participate in this effort, they are welcome," he said in response to a question.

He added: "This has been done in the past and it is not something that we are prohibiting. Our law enforcement agencies are usually in the lead, and they (the US) play a supportive role.

"There have been many instances where agents of US enforcement agencies like the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency have come to the Philippines and worked together with Philippine law enforcement agencies in joint projects."

No offense

Afable said Malacañang was not taking offense that the US government had put up the reward money.

"*OK lang yan*," he said. "That does not really impinge upon our political or sovereign situation."

He also said the reward should be seen as "a way of speeding up the arrest of these people and engaging public involvement and participation."

US missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, whom the Abu Sayyaf is holding along with Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, marked one year in captivity on May 27.

The US government has linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida network of Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, the principal suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

American troops, complete with sophisticated equipment and weaponry, including satellite surveillance and spy planes, are now taking part in the RP-US Balikatan exercise intended to train Filipino soldiers in fighting terrorism.

Balikatan 02-1 is focused on Basilan, the main theater of operations against the bandit group.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said last weekend that the Philippine military could easily overwhelm the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the hostages even without support from the US military.

In his speech, Ricciardone said the US government was "acting in close cooperation with Philippine law enforcement authorities" in "our mutual effort to fight terrorism in the Philippines and around the world."

He took note of the role of Philippine law enforcement agencies in foiling the terrorist plot of Ramzi Yousef during the visit of Pope John Paul II to the country in 1995.

He said it was the same reward program that led to Yousef's arrest in Pakistan months later.

Saving lives

US Embassy officials explained that the $5-million reward would come from the Rewards for Justice Program of the US government.

"(This program) has already saved many lives, has prevented acts of terrorism, and has resulted in the conviction of terrorists in several countries," Ricciardone told reporters.

"We hope that this Rewards for Justice Program, now active in the Philippines, will support Philippine government efforts to bring to justice the terrorists responsible for the murder of Filipinos and Americans," he said. "Working together, we can defeat the terrorism that has already cost both our nations so many innocent lives."

The Abu Sayyaf has beheaded not only a number of its Filipino hostages but also American tourist Guillermo Sobero, who was abducted from a Palawan resort along with the Burnhams.

The Rewards for Justice Program is said to be one of the most valuable assets of the US government in the fight against international terrorism. Established in 1984 through the Act to Combat International Terrorism, the program is administered by the US Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

Under the program, the secretary of state may offer rewards of up to $5 million for information that will prevent or favorably resolve acts of international terrorism against American citizens or property worldwide.

The bounty may also be paid for information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorists "attempting, committing, conspiring to commit, or aiding and abetting in the commission" of terrorist acts.

According to Afable, putting up reward money is "not really uncommon" because "there are rewards out for Bin Laden and other terrorists."

"We must also take note that terrorism is an international crime," he said. "It is transnational in scope and there are linkages between different terrorist groups worldwide."

He also said that because the US government had linked the Abu Sayyaf to Bin Laden, "it's not surprising that such an award would be set up against them."

The United States has earlier offered a $25-million reward for the capture of Bin Laden and $10 million for fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Afable stressed, however, that while the FBI was welcome to assist in operations to arrest Abu Sayyaf leaders, the Philippine government was maintaining its policy on US troops participating in the Balikatan.

"The policy still stands that the American troops shall not be involved in operations against the Abu Sayyaf," he said. But he added that the US forces had "the prerogative to defend themselves if attacked." ***With an AP report***

Officials deny encounter between US troops, bandits

From page A1

training, support and providing advice and assessment.

The Americans, whose deployment is scheduled to end in July, are not allowed to engage in combat unless fired upon.

In Isabela, Basilan, Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, also said the reported encounter in Barangay Bohe Tambis in Tuburan town was actually a training exercise.

Residents of Bohe Tambis confirmed there was no encounter with the Abu Sayyaf, contrary to their earlier belief.

Some residents said that after hearing heavy firing around 10 p.m. Monday, they sought refuge in nearby villages. But they decided to return to their homes after learning that it was a simulated encounter.

Aleo said he was surprised to learn that some media outfits had taken the exercise seriously. He said some journalists even directly quoted him without interviewing him.

"That's not true. You can inquire from the training coordinators in Zamboanga," Aleo said, referring to earlier reports quoting him as saying there was an encounter.

According to a report prepared by the Philippine military's Southern Command, the Pave Hawks were flying 100 feet above the treetops when shot at by a 10-man group led by a certain Lidjuman.

The report said one of the helicopters returned fire, and the suspected bandits subsequently withdrew from the area.

Lidjuman is said to be a former bodyguard of Tuburan Mayor Dorio Kalahal, whose home in Lantawan town was raided last month by government troops on suspicion that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya and some followers had sought refuge there.

4 teams

Aleo said US soldiers and members of the RP Navy Seals were simulating an encounter with the bandit group using Pave Hawks.

"It was a plain training exercise between the US and Philippine Navy Seals," he said, adding that the US and Filipino troops were grouped into four teams during the exercise.

He said one team was assigned to infiltrate a supposed terrorist camp while another focused on withdrawal, and one team assumed the attack position while another pretended to be Abu Sayyaf bandits pursuing the withdrawing soldiers.

He said the teams used blank bullets during the entire exercise.

"The simulation (involved) a Pave Hawk acting as air support while some soldiers were being extricated," Aleo said.

But Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, chief of the Philippine military's public information office, clarified that the helicopters involved were not Pave Hawks but Chinooks.

Mabanta also sought to downplay the supposed attack on the US helicopters, saying the military report was inaccurate.

"We're trying to correct it," he said in Manila.

Like the other officials, Mabanta insisted that the incident was part of the joint military exercise.

"This was part of the scenario that called for firing and return-firing while US and Filipino forces were conducting infiltration and exfiltration exercises," he said.

Besides, Mabanta added, the area in question—which is near the detachment of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion—had been secured against possible attacks.

Agence France Presse earlier quoted Philippine military spokesperson Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias as insisting that the incident was an attack by the Abu Sayyaf because Tuburan was a known haunt of the bandit group.

"We cannot prevent attacks," he was quoted as saying. "These are indiscriminate acts by terrorists. We are going to take extra precautions and additional security patrols in areas of training."

Later, Covarrubias told a news conference that "there is a mix-up in the military report."

"We are correcting our reports about the attack. It turned out to be an exercise," he said.

No room

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said the Abu Sayyaf had no more room to hide, much less launch an attack.

"Their forces have been largely degraded," Carolina said.

Earlier, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters in Zamboanga that the Abu Sayyaf had been on the run because of the continued military operations.

Capt. James Mauldin, team leader of the US Special Forces detailed under Task Force Zamboanga, said the bandit group had become a spent force.

"The military and the police made Zamboanga inhospitable to the (Abu Sayyaf), as it is in Basilan," Mauldin said. ***Reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio in Manila; Reuters; Agence France Presse***

Amnesty Int'l urges oversight on training

WASHINGTON—The US government's training of foreign military forces is helping people who may one day commit human rights abuses and oppose America, an Amnesty International report says.

US training operations occur in about 150 countries, the state department says. Since Sept. 11, the operations have increased, with the United States training foreign troops to fight terrorists in Afghanistan, Georgia, the Philippines and Yemen.

The report released this week by Amnesty International said that far too often the training was conducted in secret and without oversight from ranking officials.

"The urgency of the war on terror should not blind the United States to the perils of providing military training with less oversight than flight schools," said Sharon Burke, advocacy director at Amnesty International USA. "Only a handful of military training programs require background vetting and tracking of foreign trainees."

There is no single US policy on training operatives, police forces and militaries in other countries, and no single government agency in charge of the operations.

Critics point to cases of foreign trainees eventually opposing US interests and brutalizing local resistance.

The same mistakes

"The fear is that we could be making some of the same mistakes that we made in Latin America over the past decades, where we trained some of the most notorious dictators," said Peter Kornbluh, a senior analyst at the National Security Archive, a Washington think tank that researches declassified documents.

The Amnesty report suggests that the United States should link military training to human rights education and establish independent oversight of any use of the US Special Operations Forces to train militaries abroad.

Pentagon officials did not immediately return calls for comment Tuesday.

Retired Air Force Gen. Todd Oelstrom, who conducted training exercises in countries throughout the Middle East, said most operations had proven successful.

"Our influence has been a stabilizing factor in many nations, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia," said Oelstrom, who is director of the National Security Project at Harvard University. "We have formed a military that we are proud of in South Korea and in Japan and influenced many of the emerging Nato countries."

Colombia et al.

The United States is now making some decisions about training operations in several countries.

The Bush administration wants $439 million next year to provide training for Colombian soldiers who are fighting drug cartels. The Colombian military is also fighting two rebel forces and could use any military assistance for that purpose, the Amnesty report says.

The US Congress is also moving toward sending money to Indonesia to help train its police.

The Indonesian military, which the United States heavily supported for most of the 1990s, has been accused of corruption and human rights abuses, especially for its role in trying to suppress the independence drive in East Timor in 1999. The United States cut ties with the Indonesian military following the East Timor violence.

Throughout the 1990s, the Army's School of the Americas offered training and education to Latin American soldiers, some of whom went on to commit human rights violations, including the 1989 murder in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter.

The recently deposed Taliban in Afghanistan consisted of forces that once opposed the Soviet Union and received billions of dollars in support from the United States in the early 1980s.

In Panama, Gen. Manuel Noriega received millions in training and support from the CIA and the US military. The United States invaded Panama on Dec. 20, 1989, and removed Noriega from power after he was linked to drug smugglers. ***AP***

Church defends priest in illicit affair

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—The top Catholic Church official in the province has defended a priest who was allegedly involved in an eight-year illicit affair with a woman in Alicia town, saying the priest is innocent of the charges of immorality hurled by the woman's three children.

In a letter dated May 7, the siblings aged 25, 19 and 16, "earnestly and urgently" requested Bishop Sergio Utleg and the Diocese of Ilagan to investigate the priest for his alleged immoral activities.

But Utleg said the priest was only dragged into a family squabble that involved money and property.

"(That is a) domestic problem; it's a family affair. (The priest) was only dragged into the mess," he said.

In a separate press statement, the bishop said "it is unfortunate that (the priest) has been implicated in a controversy that stemmed from a problem that involves a quarrel between the (woman and her) children . . . concerning money and property."

"It is deplorable that the issue went off hand in the media without hearing the side of the priest (and) condemning him without a fair trial," the statement said.

Utleg said he met with the council of priests and talked with those involved in the issue to address the problem.

"We will investigate or study the matter. However, we are not like the Senate that publishes (or airs) everything that we are doing. The (details of the investigation) will probably be only for us. We may or we may not release all the results (of the investigation)," he said. "The best thing we can do is probably to release another statement after our (investigation)."

Utleg said he was hoping that "the parties involved will respect the proper ecclesiastical process for such case."

He rejected suggestions to transfer the priest to another parish because this might be interpreted as "an admission of guilt."

"If I will transfer him to another parish outside the region, that will definitely be regarded as an admission of guilt," Utleg told the INQUIRER.

He said the decision to allow the priest to stay in his parish "has been a difficult one."

But the bishop said the priest should "face the music" should the woman's children file criminal charges against him for alleged immorality.

The siblings have also threatened to bring the "scandalous matter to the proper and higher authorities" if no immediate actions are taken against the priest.

Wife of OFW in Kuwait murder . . .

From page A1

since 1993. His job contract was supposed to end this month.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolonario Lozada said the government was sending Shariah lawyers to Kuwait to appeal the verdict.

"The sentencing was done by a court equivalent to a municipal trial court here," said Lozada who served as presidential adviser on foreign affairs during the term of then President Fidel Ramos.

He said the same team of Muslim lawyers would assist other Filipinos implicated in the murder of Luc Ethier, 36, a Canadian who worked as an aircraft technician in Kuwait.

A Kuwait judge handed down a life sentence to Teddy Tomaro for killing Ethier, but cleared the Canadian's Filipino wife Mary-Jane Bitos of murder charges.

The judge, however, sentenced her to three years in prison for giving false testimony and pointing to a Kuwaiti as the gunman.

The judge acquitted Jimmy Binuya and Rosalia Tesoro Baclig, two of four other Filipinos charged in the case.

But he gave a five-year prison sentence to Norasa Talib Esick for adultery and possession of a firearm, and three months to Lourdes Viray for not reporting the crime.

"This is the verdict and this is justice," defense attorney Abdul Majeed Khuraibet said after the ruling, vowing to launch appeals for Bitos and Esick.

A farce

"We're watching a farce," Khuraibet said earlier in court. "The confession of one defendant against another cannot stand in court unless it is enhanced by other evidence."

"It's a play, your honor, that doesn't stand to reason," Khuraibet continued. "We believe that the counts against the defendants are fabricated. The proof of that is the mystery that envelops this case."

Ethier was shot dead as he walked with Bitos through a busy shopping area south of Kuwait City last Oct. 10.

Esick was accused of supplying Tomaro with a gun, but the murder weapon was never found. The court heard that the gun seized by police did not match that used in the attack.

Bitos, her arm still bearing the injuries sustained when she was shot three times during the attack, maintained during the trial that the first suspect arrested after the shooting, Kuwaiti Islamist Majid al-Mutairi, was the man she saw pulling the trigger.

Mutairi's lawyer, Nawaf Sari al-Mutairi, told the court that his client accused all six Filipinos of conspiring against Muslims in Kuwait and that he was demanding $16,000 compensation for insults he suffered when in police custody.

Good relationship

Canadian Benoit Rivard, a close friend of Ethier and Bitos, also testified Tuesday, saying the couple had a good relationship and that Bitos had no idea whose name her husband's life insurance money was in.

After announcing the Filipinos' arrest last year, the emirate's interior ministry said the group had planned to share the money.

Rivard told the judge the money had been left to Ethier's mother while another insurance policy under US defense contracting company Dyncorp, which employed Ethier, was still in his former girlfriend's name.

"How could she (Bitos) agree with someone (Tomaro) to kill her husband while she doesn't know about any insurance documents?" asked Mashaal Bouriky, defense lawyer for Tomaro.

"There is no crime weapon, there's no motive for the crime, and investigations were not serious," Bouriky said, arguing that all the accused confessed under duress.

The murder raised fears among the expatriate community in Kuwait of a revenge attack on a Westerner following the Oct. 7 launch of US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

Both Ethier and his wife had converted to Islam. ***With reports from AFP and Reuters***

Gay priests . . .

From page A1

with them," he said.

Varela acknowledged that homosexuality was an abnormal condition. "We have to help them remain chaste in their condition, and avoid becoming practicing homosexuals," he said.

The bishop said that a priest proven to be a practicing homosexual would get a warning first.

If the priests persists, "he is suspended from the exercise of the priesthood, and sent to a rehabilitation center."

Varela said "homosexuals can be cured." When they are pronounced cured, "they are restored to the exercise of their priestly functions, but with care and caution."

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, earlier said that the CBCP had no idea of the extent of child abuse by priests in the country.

Quevedo admitted that other forms of sexual offenses by priests such as consensual sex, sex with male and female minors and children sired by priests constituted the bigger problem for the Church.

Without explaining how he arrived at the statistic, Bishop Socrates Villegas, spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Manila, had said that only "1.6 percent or even lower are errant priests." He was silent on the number of homosexual priests. There are some 4,000 priests in the country.

For its part, the Couples for Christ claims that only one percent of the priests have sired children.

Armand N. Nocum

Alvarez: I will be confirmed

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has expressed confidence that he will be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments despite a last-ditch stand being made by his oppositors in the House of Representatives.

"If the voting was going to be held tomorrow, I will be confirmed," Alvarez told the INQUIRER.

The commission will meet again on June 3 to make a decision on Alvarez's nomination to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in time for the bicameral body's last plenary session on June 5, the same day when Congress adjourns.

Alvarez will be considered "bypassed" if the CA fails to confirm him before the adjournment of Congress. He will then have to be reappointed again by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Alvarez's office yesterday issued a statement claiming that members of the CA have reached a "consensus" to confirm him, based on what Sen. Ramon Magsaysay reportedly said after a CA hearing on Tuesday.

Magsaysay, chair of the 17-member environment and natural resources sub-committee of the CA, supposedly revealed in a closed door executive meeting at the Senate that the members of the sub-committee have agreed to recommend the confirmation of Alvarez.

The CA decided in the last hearing to give more time for Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval to wind up his presentation of his opposition to Alvarez.

Sandoval and his son, Rep. Ricky Sandoval of the lone district of Malabon-Navotas, have been critical of Alvarez because of his Department Order No. 17 which extended municipal waters to 15 km. The Sandovals have complained that the 15-km delineation will deprive commercial fish operators of their traditional fishing grounds.

But Alvarez said the DAO 17 was actually a "win-win solution" for both small and big fishermen since a technical working committee has been formed to review the implementing rules that will benefit both sectors.

As to the claims by Rep. Propero Pichay that Alvarez issued irregular Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) to five foreign companies, Alvarez said these Ifmas were initiated during the previous administration and had already been canceled.

Me, too, says the other Alvarez

LEADERS of the so-called Mindanao bloc yesterday assailed members of the Commission on Appointments for what they called an apparent "regional bias and discrimination" in conducting their hearing for the confirmation of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

But Alvarez, who appeared at the hearing of the commission yesterday, appeared unfazed by the continuing opposition to his confirmation. He expressed confidence that the CA would eventually confirm his nomination when it meets on Monday for the last day of hearing.

Headed by Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario and Agusan Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, the Mindanao bloc lamented the delay in the confirmation of the appointment of Alvarez despite the fact that oppositors to his confirmation had all been given the opportunity to be heard.

"They only keep repeating the same discredited and baseless charges, thus prolonging the hearing unnecessarily," Del Rosario said. "We feel that Secretary Alvarez is being subjected to humiliation and harassment by his detractors unnecessarily, since he (Alvarez) has already refuted all charges against him. Besides two congressional committees and the Ombudsman have already cleared him of the same charges."

The Mindanao leaders described as "utterly ridiculous and baseless" the accusations against Alvarez, a former congressman from Davao del Norte.

At yesterday's hearing, Dante Canlas, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said Alvarez had nothing to do with the drafting and approval of the original contract between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminal Inc. (Piatco) for the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Canlas explained that after the original contract was signed, three supplements were appended to the contract. Alvarez had no participation in the first two supplements, which were approved before he assumed the position of DOTC secretary.

Gloria on 2nd son's wedding: It's true but . . .

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed her dismay at a recent INQUIRER story that broke the news of her second son Diosdado's wedding to Victoria Manotok next year.

But the President did not deny the story, saying her disappointment stemmed from the fact that she and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo had yet to call on Manotok's parents to formally ask for her hand in marriage in behalf of their son, in the Filipino custom called "pamanhikan."

Ms Macapagal confirmed that her son, nicknamed "Dato," will marry Manotok, a senior associate for treasury and capital markets at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Both are 27.

"They (the couple) didn't want to announce it yet, but it was leaked. I don't know where (the INQUIRER) got the information, but it's true," the President told Bombo Radyo yesterday.

"(Dato) will get married next year. But we have not gone on *pamanhikan* yet, so we're embarrassed that it was announced already," she said.

The President nevertheless was only too happy to describe her future daughter-in-law.

"She's an honor student, a very bright girl. She's working in the financial community," the future mother-in-law said.

Manotok graduated with honors from Ateneo University with an AB Management degree.

She is the daughter of Rufino Luis and Cynthia Manotok. Her father is managing director of Ayala Corp.

Dato is taking up law at the Ateneo.

The news report said that Dato had given Manotok an engagement ring taken from a jewelry piece that had belonged to his maternal great-grandmother, Irenea Macaraeg.

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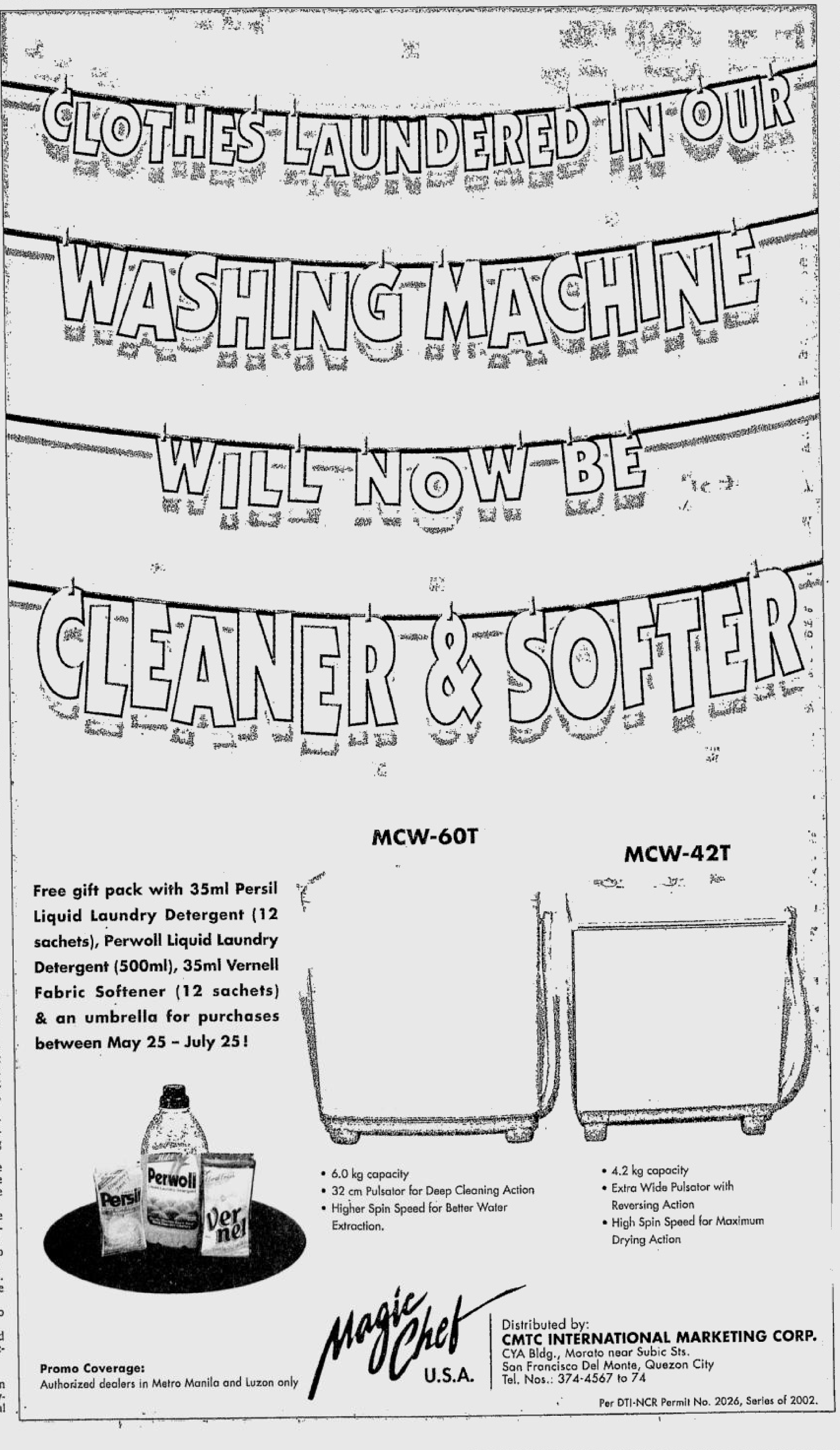

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Disappointing decision

EDITORIAL

THE SUPREME Court's 13-0 decision remanding to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court the 11 murder charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with the May 1995 Kuratong Baleleng massacre pushed the cases to a stalemate.

The decision was a big disappointment to those who expected the Court to either allow the reopening of the cases or slam the door shut on a new inquiry in the lower courts, depending on whose side one is. The Court declared that there were questions of fact that had to be determined by the trial court, and the questions had to do with whether the requirements of the two-year prescription period had been complied with.

The Department of Justice on April 17, 2001, ordered the reopening of the preliminary investigation against Lacson and 25 other officers of the Philippine National Police after Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr. of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court provisionally dismissed the cases on March 31, 1999, following the recantation of witnesses who had testified that what happened was a "rubout." The Court of Appeals on Aug. 24, 2001, dismissed the 11 murder complaints on a technicality: the lapse of the two-year prescriptive period within which to revive the case.

The Supreme Court directed Judge Theresa Yadao of the QC Regional Trial Court, to which the cases were remanded, to determine whether the two-year prescription period had lapsed and whether the requisites of the prescription period had been complied with. It said that "the records of this case are inconclusive on the factual issue of whether the multiple murder cases against respondent Lacson are being revived within or beyond the two-year bar." The decision allows the introduction of evidence that could help determine the issue of prescription. It does not pave the way for the introduction of new evidence related to the murder charges themselves.

The decision, however, does open an opportunity for the government to reopen the investigation. It has produced new witnesses but a reinvestigation depends, of course, on the resolution of the issues sent back by the Supreme Court to the RTC. It is there where the battle over reopening the multiple murder cases has to be fought.

Lacson's worries are far from over. The Court's decision merely postpones the moment of truth.

To ensure that the proceedings in the lower court would not be stalled by delaying tactics until a more friendly government is elected, the Supreme Court has directed that the RTC resolve the issue within a "reasonable time." In practice, this means six months. Thus, the Court has served notice that justice should be meted out more expeditiously—delay being the hallmark of the Kuratong Baleleng case now running on its seventh year.

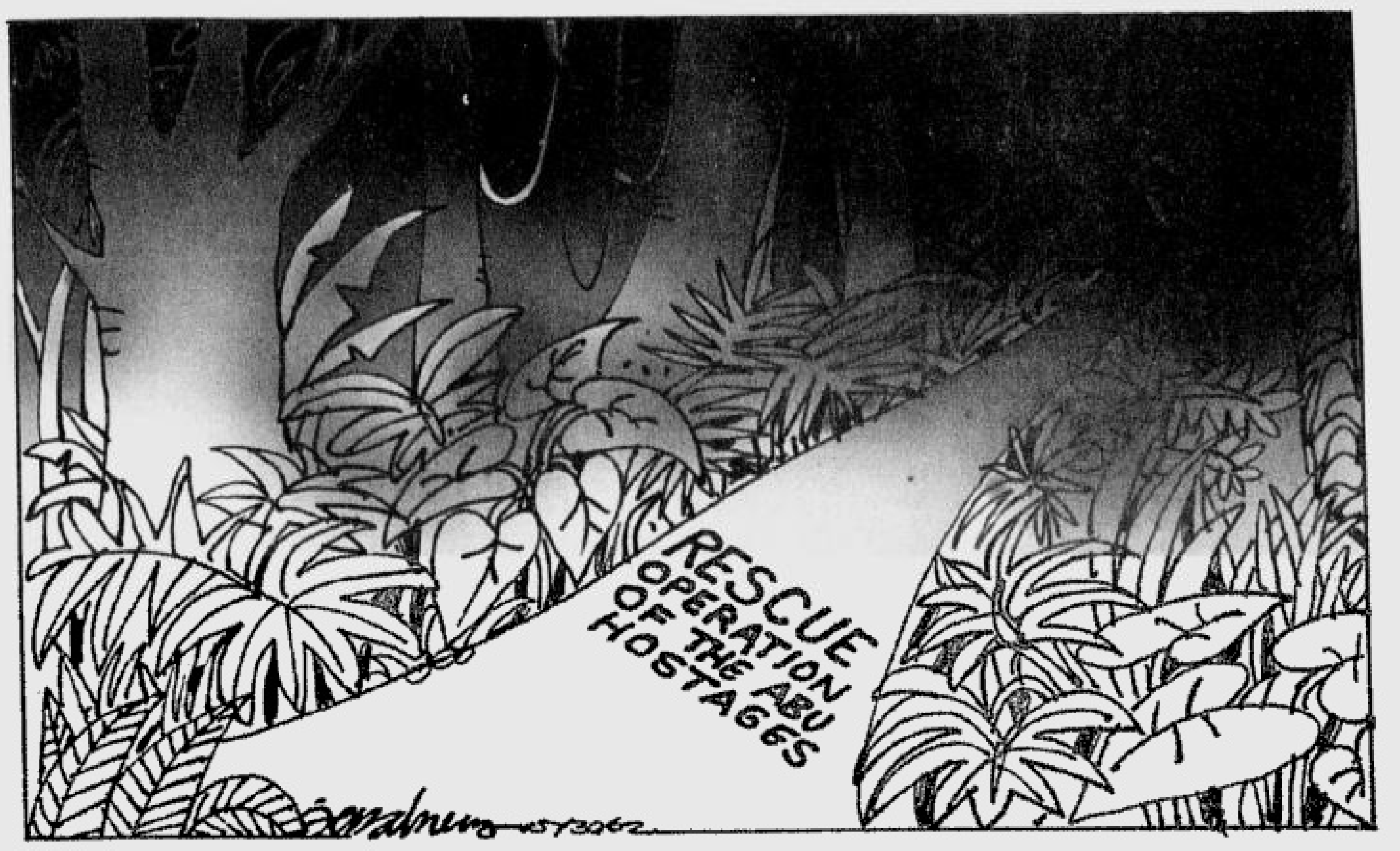
The Court explicitly declared that Lacson cannot be arrested while the cases are pending resolution in the RTC. This prevents the cases from degenerating into a political issue.

Lacson is being accused as a principal in the Kuratong Baleleng killing which took place when he was head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Habagat. Lacson and his men called it a "shootout" but witnesses inside the PNP described it as a "rubout."

That the witnesses recanted their testimony is one of the bizarre developments in this extraordinary case that has seen many twists and turns. Certainly among the most curious twists was the promotion by then President Joseph Estrada, Lacson's patron, of Judge Agnir to the Court of Appeals after he had provisionally dismissed the charges.

Following his election to the Senate in May 2001, Lacson lost no time in filing a petition with another RTC branch for a restraining order to stop the new preliminary investigation being conducted by the justice department. The petition was denied, and Lacson asked the Court of Appeals to overturn the RTC decision and stop the DOJ investigation. The appellate court dismissed the complaint on the issue of prescription, giving rise to the Supreme Court's decision to remand it to the RTC.

Lacson has become a magnet for cases following his election to the Senate. But among all the charges that have been hurled at him, including alleged money laundering and drug trafficking, nothing has troubled him more than the Kuratong Baleleng massacre. For him, the multiple murder charges are a matter of life and death.


RESCUE OPERATION OF THE ABU HOSTAGES

The world's worst airliner crashes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FLIGHT was only for one hour and 30 minutes, on what is known as the "golden route" between Taiwan and Hong Kong because of its rich contribution to airline profits. It is the most frequently flown international route in Asia, with more than 30 flights in either direction daily. Yet China Airlines Flight C1611 was only 20 minutes out of Taipei and cruising at 30,000 feet when it disappeared from traffic-control radar screens and plummeted into the sea.

There was no distress signal. There were 225 people on board; and there was no survivor. The time was about 5 p.m. local time.

The crash bolstered the record of China Airlines, Taiwan's flagship carrier, as the most dreadful in terms of safety. China Air is now considered one of the world's most dangerous airlines, and has sent travelers flocking to its rival, EVA Airways.

According to the website of AirSafe.com, China Air has had 10 fatal accidents since 1970. And the Aviation Safety Network Online list of the 100 worst airliner accidents of all time—based on the number of casualties—mentions China Airlines three times: No. 14 for an Airbus A300 crash in Nagoya on April 26, 1994, killing 264 people; No. 24 for the latest crash, a Boeing 747-200, off Penghu islands off Taiwan; and No. 28, for the Airbus A300 crash in Taipei on Feb. 16, 1998, with 203 casualties. The Philippines is listed only once, way down below in No. 83, for the Air Philippines crash of a Boeing 737-200 in Davao with 131 casualties.

The top two on the list are the Boeing 767s hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center Building in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. The American Airlines jetliner was No. 1 with 1,524 total casualties, 1,432 of whom were on the ground. The United Airlines jetliner that crashed on the other tower was second, with 664 casualties, 599 of whom were on the ground.

The third hijacked plane in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the American Airlines Boeing 757 that crashed on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., was only No. 32, with 189 casualties, 125 of whom were on the ground.

The collision on March 27, 1977 of two Boeing 767s, one owned by Pan Am and the other by KLM, while taking off from the Tenerife airport, previously listed as the worst airline accident, was pushed down to No. 3, with 583 deaths, all of them on board the two planes.

Another collision in Charki Dadri on Nov. 12, 1996 between a Saudia Boeing 747 and a Kazakhstan Airlines Ilyushin 76, with 349 casualties, is fifth, separated from the first collision by a JAL Boeing 747 crash in Tokyo on Aug. 12, 1985 which killed 520.

The airline with the most accidents on the 100 worst list is Aeroflot of the Soviet Union with nine crashes. American Airlines has five.

As to the plane manufacturer with the most number of crashed planes, Boeing is far and away the leader, perhaps because it has the most number of planes flying. A total of 52 crashed Boeing planes of different models, flown by different airlines, are included in the list. Another reason could be the fact that Boeing planes are big, and a crash invariably has many casualties—on which the 100 worst list was based.

But back to China Airlines. Here are the 10 fatal events since 1970 listed by AirSafe.com News:

1. Aug. 12, 1970; YS 11; Taipei: The aircraft was on approach under heavy rain and low clouds when it struck a low ridge about one-half mile from the runway. Dead: 14.

2. Nov. 21, 1971; Caravelle; near Penghu Islands; Formosa Strait: The aircraft was believed to have been destroyed by an inflight explosion caused by a bomb. All on board, 17 passengers and 8 crewmen, were killed.

3. Feb. 27, 1980; B 707-300; Manila: The crew executed a steep and unstabilized approach, touching down hard short of the runway and bouncing, eventually stopping on the runway after having the two putboard engines and parts of the wing separated from the aircraft. Two passengers killed.

4. Aug. 16, 1982; B 747; near Hong Kong: The aircraft encountered severe inflight turbulence. Two passengers killed.

5. Feb. 16, 1986; B 737-200; Pescadores Islands: The aircraft touched down on the runway but crashed during an attempted go-around. All 13 aboard killed.

6. Oct. 26, 1989; B 737-200; near Hualien, Taiwan: The crew was using an incorrect departure procedure and hit a cloud-shrouded high ground at 7,000 feet. All 57 aboard killed.

7. April 26, 1994; A 300-600; Nagoya, Japan: Crew errors led to the aircraft stalling and crashing during approach. 264 killed.

8. Feb. 16, 19981; A 300-600; near Taipei: The aircraft crashed into a residential area during its second landing attempt. Conditions: Dark with rains and reduced visibility due to fog. 197 dead.

9. Aug. 22, 1999; MD 11; Hong Kong: The aircraft was landing during a storm at night. It struck the runway and came to rest upside down and on fire. Three passengers killed.

10. May 25, 2002; B 747-200; near the Penghu Islands: The aircraft plunged into the sea about 20 minutes into a flight from Taipei to Hong Kong. The impact area was in the Taiwan Straits about 75 km from the coast of Taiwan. Weather and flight conditions were normal, and no distress signal or other communication was received prior to the crash. The flight was carrying 16 crew members and 206 passengers. No report of survivors.

Still, sense of nation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT some strong reactions, mostly favorable, to the column I wrote last Monday, but the detractions are particularly interesting. It was a takeoff from a letter written by Gregorio Viterbo about what overseas Filipino workers could do for the country if they only bought Filipino.

A friend's comment typified the views of those who disagreed with the Monday column. A Filipino First policy, which should mean among other things, encouraging Filipinos to buy Filipino is fine in theory but not so in practice. In practice, many Filipino products are inferior to foreign ones. If they come at roughly similar prices, then a consumer has every right to prefer the latter. It would certainly be unfair to ask Filipinos, OFWs or not, to make such huge sacrifices for patriotism's sake. South Koreans have no problems buying their products because they are comparable to imported ones, if not better. First, let us get to that point, then let us have a Filipino First policy.

The point is well taken. I actually thought of it when I was writing the column but did not deal with it for lack of space. True, even in food, imported products often taste better than local ones. I myself am not beyond preferring Taster's Choice to local instant coffee, though as brewed coffee goes, the Batangas *barako* can hold its place among some of the best in the world. And in any case, Taster's Choice costs far more than local instant coffee, as it should. But I'd grant the general principle.

But clearly, what we have here is a chicken-and-egg situation. I remember that when I was a kid, "Made in Japan" was synonymous with perishable. The legendary logos were "Made in USA" and "Made in Germany." Things that carried those labels were supposed to last. I remember a spoof in Mad Magazine of a *karatista* chopping down several layers of bricks to the applause of his audience. Once everyone is gone, he grins from ear to ear and picks up a brick that says, "Made in Japan." Japan itself rather slyly made some products that said, "Made in Usa," Usa apparently being an obscure spot in the country.

Today of course "Made in Japan" stands for something else, as American consumers of car and appliances themselves know very well. The change did not happen overnight, nor did it happen without the Japanese manufacturers having a captive market at home.

In our case, it's more than speculation that we can do it with a little help from our friends in the government. During the 1950s and early 1960s, which is to say during the import-substitution days, we did have a flourishing manufacturing sector, and we did make products we could be proud of. The famous shoes that went by the name "Ang Tibay" were aptly named: those things could last forever. We had our own signature clothes, even if the signatures did not sound Italian. I'd swear Macomber jeans could have outlasted Levi's. They looked like sackcloth, which had the effect of making them look grungier. We produced our own cigarettes, courtesy of Chavit Singson's favorite region. We even had a steel mill.

It's one of the curious twists of history that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's father, Diosdado, presided over the death of those industries. He scrapped Carlos P. Garcia's "Filipino First" policy, claiming its protectionism produced only graft and corruption in the government (which it also did) and launched decontrol, the grandfather of what passes today for "globalization." That brought a flood of "blue seal" to these shores. Ding Lichauco, who continues to advocate protectionism of the import-substitution kind to this day, has a point.

I am not saying we should have protection for all time. True enough, there must be rules, true enough there must be time limits. Preferential treatment for local manufactures may not be used as an opportunity, or excuse, to produce crap. Which arguably they have been doing. But here's the part where I differ from others about the tack we have to take.

I can't see how the protection can be economic alone. It is not enough to resurrect high tariff walls and financial controls—which, in any case will be hard to do in these days of GATT and the WTO. Economic protection means nothing if it is not backed up by cultural, or moral, protection that comes from having a strong sense of nation. That in the end is what separates the South Koreans, the Japanese and the various Asian dragons, or tigers (call them what you will) from us. It's the fierce sense of national pride that makes consumers buy local products, out of moral obligation to their producers, and that makes producers produce high-quality products, out of moral obligation to their consumers. That's a chicken and egg too, the kind we'd like to have.

It is not enough to keep chanting "Filipino First" like a mantra and hope it would hypnotize people enough to walk like zombies to the Marikina Shoe Expo. (Though I sincerely hope you do go and visit the Marikina Shoe Expo in the near future, with or without the quasi-hypnotic suggestion.) That must be backed up by an ardent campaign for a nationalist revival, a word that quite strangely seems to turn off some people, who imagine nationalism to mean keeping things out. In fact, it means keeping things in, or discovering the best in ourselves. Or just discovering ourselves, period, something we haven't really done all these centuries. Certainly, not all of our chanting "Filipino First" will matter if our entire culture shouts "America First."

The best protection, as I said last time, is not economic, it is cultural. The first you can scrap with GATT, the second you cannot even with God. In trade as in sex, you need protection. You can't get any better than with a sense of nation.

Kuratong Baleleng case

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SUPREME Court ruling on the Kuratong Baleleng case involving Sen. Panfilo Lacson appears to be a classic case of the half-empty, half-full glass, depending on who's looking at it.

Many people appear disappointed that the high court did not directly order the reopening of the KB case by the QC regional trial court, which could have led to the immediate arrest of Lacson. Instead the SC returned the case to the RTC and ordered it to determine if the rules of court were followed correctly when the case was dismissed by RTC Judge Wenceslao Agnir in 1999. If there were lapses, the SC seems to say, then the RTC could reopen the trial, the discretion being left to current RTC Judge Teresa Yadao (but this is part of what's making a lot of people nervous now—Yadao was an Erap appointee endorsed by Erap brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile).

* * *

But to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who ordered the filing of the appeal with the high court, the ruling constituted a "great victory" for the government and the people. It only means, said Perez, that the KB case, which was declared "dead" by the Court of Appeals in its permanent injunction (four Court of Appeals justices voted for injunction while one was against) is now "alive" and the process is ongoing. To Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who filed the 89-page petition with the SC, the new ruling constituted "the first among firm little steps," as he told this columnist.

* * *

The technicality on which the SC anchored its ruling revolves around Sec. 8, Rule No. 117 of the criminal court proceedings, which points out that a provisional dismissal becomes final after two years. Lawyers stress that this two-year period starts being counted from the time the private complainant or the victim of the complaining witness is notified of the provisional dismissal. Marcelo points out that in the KB case involving 11 alleged murder cases, only seven families of the allegedly murdered men had issued affidavits of desistance after the court's dismissal order. This means that four other families did not make such affidavits, meaning, they were not properly informed. Marcelo opines that the government could seek the reopening of the case on behalf of those four families.

Some keen observers opine that with that ruling, the SC went into some kind of "holding pattern" because the landing field was full, so to speak. What is becoming apparent is that with the retirement of three justices, namely, Jose Melo (who abstained) today, Arturo Buena next month and Santiago Kapunan in August, we could expect a more definitive ruling on the KB case.

* * *

A week ago I published the first part of the story of Sen. Juan Flavier, whose very impoverished family from Tondo sustained him through expensive medical school. At this time when parents across the country are trying to get their children enrolled under difficult financial circumstances, I felt that Flavier's story, which appeared in a little book called "Coincidence or Miracle," would be most inspiring. I heard of it after the recent golden anniversary of the Baguio City National High School's class of 1952, and how class historian Edgardo Espiritu had prophesied 50 years ago that their pint-sized valedictorian would go on to medical school, take up a post-graduate course at Johns Hopkins University in the US, become health secretary and senator. Here's the concluding part of Flavier's touching narrative:

"During the Second World War the mines were devastated. Our family moved to Baguio City...My uneducated parents were obsessed with our education. They wanted us to attain what they never had. After high school, the moment of truth came: Could I go to college? Much earlier, I had secretly made up my mind to be a medical doctor. Two incidents had crystallized my decision: first, when I was a boy in the forests of the mining community and my best friend fell from a guava tree. His right arm became permanently deformed due to lack of medical help. In my young mind I resolved to become a doctor. That way, no friend of mine would have to suffer a deformed arm.

"A year later, my dear mother became seriously ill. Medical facilities were inadequate, and because she was the dependent of a mere laborer, she was practically unattended. Faced with her possible death, I made a vow: I would become a medical doctor, then my mother would always have the best medical care. Fortunately, she survived long enough—84 years—to see my dream come true.

"The year I graduated from high school, I made my revelation to my mother...'Nanay, I want to become a doctor,' I blurted out, then waited for her stern reprimand. None came. Instead, she looked at me, smiled and replied with the most kindly tone, 'With God's help we shall manage the miracle.' It was as though she had been preparing herself for that moment all her life. My uneducated mother had never engaged in business and had no capital to speak of, but she set up her own enterprise the best way she knew how: she sold second-hand clothing. She bought old clothes, washed, mended and ironed them, then sold each piece on installment. Every day except Sundays (which were reserved for God), Nanay walked the city from house to house, selling used clothes and collecting payments...

"Most of her income went to my expensive medical education. Not once, in the eight long years I spent at the UP, did she fail to remit my monthly board and lodging expenses. Not once did she fail to send me my modest allowance or my tuition fee. How she managed the finances is still a big mystery to me to this day...

"Who would have believed (Ed Espiritu's) prophesy would come true to the letter? How explain it, except to say: Are not all these, by God's grace and my mother's great faith, the miracles of my life?"

Visit to Bacolod

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S a city in political turmoil, what with a looming recall in the form of a people's initiative threatening a premature end to the term of Mayor Joy Valdes, Bacolod's first woman mayor.

But you won't sense it, judging from Bacolod's clean, quiet streets and the gentle, unperturbed demeanor of its people. Then again, it might have been because I flew into town at 6 a.m., and everyone, including my host, city councilor Celia Flor, was too drowsy to be roused by political disputes.

An early morning talk show on local TV, though, seemed provoked enough to devote a big portion of the hour to the personalities behind the initiative. One guest was the lead organizer of the multisectoral alliance behind the initiative, as well as a fairly good-looking mustachioed man who was not too successfully parrying charges that he was the "brains" behind the effort. Friends later identified him as former Mayor Bing Leonardia, who clearly has plans to make a run anew for his old post.

When I saw her later that morning, Mayor Valdes seemed unaware of the threatening crisis, blithely addressing a mixed group of media people, NGOs and local executives. I didn't have a chance to ask her about the recall effort, but it was clear her strategy of choice in dealing with her political enemies is to ignore them. *Dedmahin*, in other words.

Friends who've just chosen to settle in Bacolod tell me that one of the best things about their new hometown is that people, including vendors, are so pleasant and polite, it's a pleasure doing business with them. "And even when they're angry, you don't really realize it because they'll still be so *malambing* (sweet) when talking to you," I teased them.

So maybe that's the trouble with the organizers of the recall initiative. They might not yet have put across the idea that they're serious about booting out the mayor, so much so that Mayor Valdes finds the most effective strategy is to go about her business as if they weren't around.

* * *

ONE of the reasons I was in Bacolod was to address the members of Marhe, or the Media Advocates for Reproductive Health and Empowerment, a group of media practitioners who seek, among other goals, to "promote and develop a professional news organization committed to the seeking and spreading of reproductive health issues through professional adherence to objectivity, journalistic excellence and ethical standards."

I first met the members of the group in Cebu over a year ago, when they took part in a workshop on media and reproductive health sponsored by the PNGOC. Almost immediately, says Marhe president Ester Espina of the Visayas Courier and Manila Times, they resolved to organize themselves around reproductive health issues but got nowhere until they sought assistance from the Dawn Foundation, a leading women's organization in Negros Occidental headed by Councilor Flor and the city administrator, lawyer Andrea Lizares-Si.

And if the media are gathered in one place, you can bet on politicians being in the vicinity. No wonder the launching drew top city and provincial officials. Aside from Mayor Joy, there were Gov. Joseph Maranon, Vice Governor Zayco, Bacolod Vice Mayor Garcia, as well as representatives of the city and provincial PNP, the provincial board and other city officials.

Government agencies, NGOs and funding bodies have spent so much time, money and effort getting the media to board the reproductive health bandwagon, only to be frustrated by the media folks' indifference and even ignorance. Which is why the founding of Marhe is such a welcome development, and one surely deserving of support.

* * *

THE MARHE launching was followed soon after by the launching of a "Community-based Quick Response Team on Family Violence and Reproductive Health" in two Negros cities, Sipalay and Escalante.

The new "QRTs" are actually a replication of an existing project in Bacolod, implemented by the Dawn Foundation with support from the Local Government Support Project of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Essentially, the QRTs are community-based mechanisms that will provide support, rescue, assistance, counseling and advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence. At the same time, a core-group of community-based volunteers from among the QRT and inter-agency networks will be tapped to serve as counselors on adolescent reproductive health and sexuality concerns of youth and parents in the three pilot areas.

That same afternoon, having long gotten used to being "abused" by the hyper-active women of Dawn whenever I come to visit, I also dropped by the "reunion" of the Gender and Development Alliance of Leaders and Advocates. Known by their acronym Gadala, an Ilonggo term that also means "expectant," the women have gone through various training sessions on women and politics and are gearing up to participate in the coming barangay elections.

The most effective speaker was Doods Locsin, provincial chair of Abanse! Pinay, who in her closing remarks offered to pray "personally and individually" for every woman present who was running in the barangay elections. "All you have to do is to write down your name and the barangay where you're running," she said. At once, the future barangay officials flocked to her, bearing little pieces of paper and thanking her for the anticipated "service."

Women may be seeking to transform the personality, nature and structures of politics, but in many ways, we remain tradition-bound. Besides, prayer never hurt anyone's chances—in politics, in love or in life.

Urban Missionaries at 25

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

The Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated."— **Pope John Paul II in "Laborem Exercens"**

THERE is a time, a place, an event in their lives or in history that many people go back to as a reference point. It is like a fork on the road that presents challenges and choices. One makes a choice, a move and is then inexorably drawn to a road less traveled. A new world is opened and life is never the same again.

For many Manila-based religious nuns, brothers and priests, 1975 was their breakthrough year. This was the year of the La Tondeña strike, which many Church workers at that time got involved in and considered their baptism of fire. The workers, around 800 of them, were demanding that the company stop hiring on a contractual basis.

The military was all over the place. Tension rose but the strikers and their supporters refused to be cowed. Finally, the arrests. Many Church workers, together with the strikers, were hauled off in a Metrocom bus.

That was on Oct. 24 and 25, 1975. Martial rule was in force. Shortly thereafter, President Marcos issued Presidential Decree 823 banning strikes and support for strikers.

But the La Tondeña strike was not the first of its kind. Before that, there were several other labor-related mobilizations in which Church workers participated. But it was the La Tondeña strike that sealed that bond between labor and the Church militants. That was a short—44 hours—but significant strike. A defining moment. A defiant move.

In 1977, two years after the strike, the Urban Missionaries (UM) was formed by the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP). Indeed, the 1975 event had helped shape the beginnings of a special kind of militancy within the Church. UM was meant to serve urban poor workers and slum dwellers who bore the brunt of the excesses of martial rule and the oppressive capitalist system that served the interest of the dictatorship at that time.

UM looked like a small step during that period but it was followed by many more and bigger ones. Later the work of UM was no longer confined to Metro Manila alone but expanded to other urban centers and labor zones.

Seven nuns and one priest were the first ones to take the road less traveled and brave the heat. Their congregations relieved them of institutional responsibilities and allowed them to clear a path for a lifestyle different from the structured kind inside convent walls. This way, they could be more responsive to the call of the times and the situation of the poor. The vision was that of "a society where workers, Church people and other sectors of society work together to build a community of people where there is peace, freedom, justice and integrity of creation."

UM put up labor desks in parishes, health and nutrition centers and Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) in depressed areas where workers' families resided. UM also provided so-called exposure programs for those who were unfamiliar with or were interested in trying the world of workers and slum dwellers.

Soon one could hardly tell worker from nun or priest. The UM's dress code was workers' clothes. In fact "Into Workers' Clothes" is the title of the book of experiences of several Sisters of St. Joseph (SSJ) nuns who had worked (several still work) in factories. Two years ago, I wrote a review of the book which I found riveting, tear-jerking, heart-rending, the first of its kind.

But more important than the dress code was the reminder: Leave your prejudices behind, listen to what the people say, walk in the spirit of humility.

Then there was the "red scare." And UM was not spared. Toward the end of martial rule and during the waning of the Marcos years, polarization in the Church ranks became apparent. This was not without basis. Ideology became a contentious issue and many religious were drawn to ideological pursuits that were outside Church perimeters. Many religious were pulled out, leaving UM with a handful of members. But that is another story, a painful one from where lessons were learned.

After that, UM took on a new and renewed life.

Fast forward to 1997. Twenty years after the La Tondeña strike that denounced contractual hiring, UM formed Pagkakaisa ng mga Taong-Simbahan at Manggagawa Laban sa Kontraktwalisasyon. UM launched a one-year campaign in 2000 to focus on the plight of contractual workers and to raise the consciousness of Church people and open their eyes to new needs, new areas.

UM celebrated its 25th year a week ago by renewing its commitment to its chosen sector, the labor sector. But what is there to celebrate, one would ask, when unionism is under threat and could be made obsolete by the so-called LOC or Labor Only Contracting? Is UM being overtaken by events?

In celebrating, UM paid homage to the century-old Philippine labor movement and its pillars who refused to knuckle under an oppressive system and instead sought ways to give dignity to those whose wounded hands move the economy and create wealth for this nation.

There is cause to celebrate, there is cause to remember, there is cause to renew commitment. If only because there is, within the Church, women and men who have given up convent comfort, who have broken structures and conventions and created new paths for others to follow. Like the itinerant Christ who braved the heat and the dust in order to reach out to the weary.

Maalab na pagbati!

Unanswered question

YOUNGBLOOD

Katrina Angela R. Macapagal

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I WAS in kindergarten when I first encountered these baffling questions.

"Are you related to former President Diosdado Macapagal?" a teacher asked.

"I don't know," I answered.

"Are you related to Gloria Macapagal?" she pressed on.

I shrugged. I had never even heard of those names.

As soon as I got home, I asked my parents if I was in fact related to such prominent individuals. My father began a long, confusing talk explaining our roots, but the whole family tree did not quite interest me at that time. My mother then mentioned that Gloria Macapagal was once her teacher, but that did not explain why we had the same surnames. I was unsatisfied with their answers. Still burning with the intense curiosity of a 6-year-old girl, I decided that the only way to know the truth would be to ask the concerned people themselves.

When I reached Grade 1, I thought I had learned enough writing and grammar skills to be able to write a decent letter. After much deliberation, I decided to address it to Ms Gloria Macapagal since my mother was then working on a certain project with her. I got the prettiest pink stationery from my collection and slowly began writing, using the most legible penmanship I could manage. I wrote in script, and make sure that I followed the correct formal and proper English grammar and not forgetting to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's".

"Dear Tita Gloria," I began. "Are you really my *tita*? My classmates are asking..." I can no longer remember what followed next, but I believe I requested her for an immediate reply.

I proudly presented my letter to my parents and asked them to deliver my composition to her.

I don't recall getting an answer to my all-important question. Actually, I think there was a reply, a note of some sort, which was not written by the addressee herself.

I was utterly disappointed. That experience counts among the most disheartening moments of my childhood.

In the years that followed, some classmates or teachers would ask the same unanswered question, especially during our History classes when the lesson was on past presidents and current officials. The only reply I could give was an embarrassed "I don't know."

My parents consoled me by saying that she was a very, very important person and that made her very, very busy. Eventually, I accepted the reality that she was indeed a busy person even though the thought continued to nag that she had no intention of giving me an answer. My mother even managed to get me an autographed picture with the inscription "Mabuhay Katrina!"

As I grew up, I slowly came to understand what my parents meant when they told me she was a very, very important person. I learned that she was an undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry at the time I wrote her. When I was in Grade 4, she won a seat in the Senate, getting the highest number of votes. When I was in high school, she became the Vice President and was also a member of the Cabinet of President Joseph Estrada.

Her successes in the field of politics must have made her even more popular, prompting more and more people to pester me with the same, long-unanswered question. In time I learned to mutter "Maybe," or "I'm not sure" instead of just shrugging it off.

My grudge did not last forever. I must admit that I also enjoy bearing the same name, especially when President Gloria Macagapal-Arroyo took her oath during Edsa II. Her assumption of the presidency took place when I was a high school junior. The timing was perfect since I was also running as school council president for the following school year then. And what do you know? After a string of bitter defeats in campus politics, I won. Having the same surname as the incumbent President of the Republic probably helped a lot, although I do have charisma and good looks (ehem). If I decide to try my luck in real-life politics someday, I wonder if the response will still be the same?

I will be starting college at the state university come June. I am quite anxious as to what welcome I will receive in a school that is known for protesting the policies of the administration headed by Ate Glo, as she is quite popularly known today.

At the moment, I am enjoying the small thrills of having the same surname as the most powerful official of the country. I have learned to take in stride the curiosity I see on people's faces when they hear my name.

Someday, I will meet President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo face to face. Perhaps she will remember the letter I wrote a decade ago. Then I will ask her the unanswered question that has baffled me all this time: "Are you really my *tita*?"(Okay, "Are we related?" may be more proper.)

It won't matter if the answer is yes or no. All I want is a reply, any reply, to my question, not a note of some sort, which was not even written by her.

Katrina Angela R. Macapagal, 16, will be taking up Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines in Diliman this coming school year.

THEY SAID

Doubly condemnable

"The massacre of innocent individuals is already a most terrible crime, a dastardly act of the basest kind. The attack against them on Church premises makes the crime even more condemnable."

—Archbishop Orlando Quevedo on the grenade thrown during the Feast of St. Joseph

Look who's talking

"If the Macapagal leadership is inept, then how does he characterize the leadership of his former boss? And more importantly, what did he do about it as executive secretary?"

—Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Sen. Edgardo Angara who described the present administration as "insecure, inept and paranoid"

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Is this the way to protect witnesses?

WE denounce the failure of the Department of Justice's management of the Witness Protection Program (WPP) to provide assistance and protection to witnesses against heinous crimes.

The director of the WPP, Leo B. Dacera III, has been the subject of official complaints from at least two vital witnesses for pressuring them to desist from testifying and pursuing the criminal cases for which these witnesses were placed in the WPP.

We have the case of Evangeline Salmorin, 29, who was placed under the WPP after witnessing the murder of her father in Pangasinan. She complained she was raped on March 26, 2002 in a safe house by WPP Security Officer Jerry Lintan. She was then still under the WPP.

Another attempt to rape her was made on March 28, 2002 by Lintan at the safe house.

Her WPP was to expire on April 1, 2002. On March 28, 2002, two days after her rape on March 26 and the attempted rape on March 28, she complained to WPP Security Officers PO1 Lorrie Pacho and Romy Reyes. On April 2, she had a conference with Dacera. Instead of listening and taking action on her complaint, Dacera allegedly pressured her not to pursue the case of rape. He even warned her that an adultery case could be filed against her and she could go to jail.

Despite her protestations that she had no amorous relationship with her rapist, Dacera refused to listen to her. It was apparent to Evangeline that Dacera was protecting her alleged rapist. The details of her complaint against Dacera are contained in her affidavit-complaint dated April 23, 2002 which she filed with the DOJ.

Another sworn complaint against Dacera was filed by PO1 Jonathan Morales with the DOJ on April 23, 2002. Morales complained that he was placed under the WPP on the basis of his sworn affidavits as early as September 2001 where he stated that then PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson personally gave him and his superior, Supt. Pancho Hubilla, direct orders to kidnap a certain Boyet Melendrez, a distant cousin of one of Joseph Estrada's mistresses who had muscled into their drug territory. He obeyed the orders.

He also stated that Hubilla instructed him, upon direct orders of Lacson, to drive a Nissan car to deliver 20 kilos of shabu to a dealer in Santa Cruz, Manila. He also complied with this order.

Morales was assured that he was going to testify before the Senate committee headed by Sen. Robert Barbers in the ongoing investigation against now Senator Lacson for his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and summary executions. To his surprise, Morales was never presented before the Senate committee.

When he complained to Dacera, he was rudely told that there was no need to present him because his testimony was weak. Morales said that was not for Dacera but for the Senate to decide.

Morales was immediately thrown out of the WPP without being given time to find a more secure place for his family. It was only when Mary "Rosebud" Ong brought this issue to the public that Morales was brought back to the WPP.

Why did Dacera keep him away from the Senate investigation and terminate his stay with the WPP, exposing him and his family to danger?

We ask for a full inventory of all the pending cases filed by witnesses under the WPP for alleged abuses against them by officials and agents of the WPP. And the actions taken, if any, by Dacera and the DOJ on these complaints.

—LEONARD DE VERA, chair, Equal Justice for all Movement; DANTE JIMENEZ, chair, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption; MARY "ROSEBUD" ONG, president, Witness Assistance Program Foundation Inc.

High birth rate cause for concern

IT is extremely ironic that the President thinks that the high birth rate in this country is no reason for concern. It will be taken care of by something she calls "technology."

Meanwhile all the prosperous countries of Europe and North America have negative birth rates and are besieged by desperate would-be migrants from the desperately poor countries of the Third World, like the Philippines.

By "technology," the President probably means jet planes that can transport the excess population of the Philippines to other countries. But the patience and compassion of the Western world have been exhausted, as is evident in the swing to the political right of the US and European nations, whose populations are fed up with the tidal wave of poor migrants who bring their bad habits and religious prejudices with them.

Madam President, you better find some cure other than jet planes for this badly overpopulated country.

—ROBERT HANAN,
bobhanan@iprimus.com.au

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

ISCAG – Philippines

(Islamic, Studies, Call & Guidance – Philippines)
Salitran I, Dasmarinas, Cavite

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

Following the arrest of the alleged terrorists in Tarlac and Pangasinan just recently, the Islamic Studies, Call and Guidance - Philippines (ISCAG) has been implicated in news reports for its alleged links with "Jeemayah Islamiya", suspected local terrorist groups, the MILF, Al Qaida and Madrasah or Islamic schools for terrorist training. Reports portrayed ISCAG as a terrorist organization and alleged it to be teaching radical Islamic fundamentalism. In addition, Sheik Hamood Al Lahem, one of ISCAG directors was tagged as the leader and/or financier for various groups being suspected for terrorist activities.

For those adverse reports and allegations about ISCAG and Sheik Hamood, **we say that those are all false and unjustified accusations and that nothing can be farther from the truth** because:

- ISCAG is a legitimate, non-stock, non-profit organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines. It is an Islamic organization founded in 1991 by Filipino Muslim reverts to spread the true message of Islam and to rectify whatever misconceptions held by most non-Muslim Filipinos about Islam and Muslim. As all incorporators were formerly Christians, they felt it necessary to educate all Filipinos, Muslims and non-Muslims alike on the correct knowledge of Islam towards understanding, peace and prosperity of the nation.
- As a religious organization, ISCAG pursues its aims absolutely through peaceful means and does not resort to violence to achieve those aims. We promote Islam to individuals and groups through lectures, fora, symposia, seminars and distribution of free reading materials.
- ISCAG does not promote terrorism nor violence. Islam abhors any form of indiscriminate violence. The Qur'an states: **"Anyone who has killed another except in retaliation, it is as if he has killed the whole of mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind."** [Qur'an 5:32]
- "Radical Islamic fundamentalism" and "terrorism" do not belong to the character and teachings of Islam. Islam teaches absolute cleanliness and purity from intention to action. Prophet Mohammad said: **"Beware of the prohibitions, then you are the best of worshippers. Be satisfied with which Allah has given you, then you are the richest of people. Be kind to your neighbor, then you are a believer. Love for the people what you love for yourself, then you are a Muslim"** The Qur'an states: **"Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good and forbidding what is evil. And it is they who are the successful."** [Qur'an 3:104]
- As of now, there are thousands of individuals who have converted to Islam through our organization. None of them can accuse ISCAG of teaching violence or terrorism, not even our non-Muslim neighbors and those who heard our message about Islam.
- Sheik Hamood is a very peace-loving and deeply religious man, well respected in Islamic communities here and abroad and has never been linked to nor suspected of any form of terrorism by whatever means. He was instrumental in founding ISCAG School for preparatory and elementary education in Dasmariñas, Cavite and not the Madrasah in Anda, Pangasinan.
- ISCAG operates a non-profit preparatory and elementary school that strictly follows the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education with the addition of Arabic Language and Qur'anic lessons. The percentage of non-Muslim students has grown significantly in just three years of operation. (SY 1999-2000 – 12%; SY 2000-2001 – 23%; SY 2001-2002 – 41%)

Lastly, with due respect, we ask our police authorities to conduct a thorough and honest investigation on the veracity of their allegations about ISCAG and worse, about ISLAM. **We in ISCAG are more than willing to cooperate with them to disprove these unfortunate accusations.**

Jamil Almarez
Operations Manager

Quitting

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"WHAT got you to quit?" my friend Babes Nazareno asked me the other day after finding out I used to smoke two to three packs a day.

"Fear of wrinkles," I answered quickly. I said that partly in jest. There were many other reasons, of course, and the fear of wrinkles wasn't No. 1—only No. 2.

That little story was meant to emphasize that anti-smoking campaigns need to be more sophisticated and focused. The known ill effects of smoking keep growing, and anti-smoking campaigners need to learn to pick from the list, tailoring their messages for different people.

Most campaigns emphasize how smoking causes lung cancer. Not a very good choice, I'm afraid. The risk of lung cancer isn't just from tobacco use but from environmental pollution, even from genes. This is why you're always hearing people arguing, "Oh, but my Lolo smoked heavily and lived to be a hundred."

What we have to point out is that Lolo was probably lucky in that he didn't have a genetic predisposition to lung cancer but that he probably suffered from any number of respiratory diseases. Several of these—chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma—cluster together under the label "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" (COPD), which has been on the top 10 list of killer diseases in the Philippines in the last two decades.

Emphysema is a particularly difficult disease to live with. Emphysema starts out with difficult breathing; I was noticing that as a smoker, climbs to the second floor were becoming major ordeals. It worsens with the years as the lung's elastic tissue stiffens from smoking. Someone I knew who had advanced emphysema said he felt like he was always drowning.

The "milder" problems—colds, flu, bronchitis—do accumulate. You just get sick more often, and each illness is more prolonged. Worse, even non-smokers who live or work with you also end up with more of these respiratory problems.

I'll say, as an ex-smoker, the effects are so serious that it takes years to recover even after you quit the cigarettes. I've been off nearly 10 years but still do poorly on respiratory function tests.

The problems don't stop there. There's evidence now that the respiratory dysfunction may affect mental health. Back in 1999, a report came out in the Archives of General Psychiatry noting that smokers tend to have more panic and anxiety disorders and attacks. At first they thought it was just a casual link, i.e., maybe more anxious people smoke, precisely because they were so prone to anxiety. But as the researchers dug up more data, they realized it was probably cigarette-smoking that caused the anxiety, a rather paradoxical situation when you consider that many people smoke to calm themselves down.

The researchers pointed out that cigarette-smoking creates respiratory problems and that some of these problems, especially difficulty with breathing, may cause anxieties and panic attacks. Many smokers, for example, suffer from agoraphobia or a fear of crowds. This is not surprising because smokers have difficulty breathing and therefore may be more prone to feeling they're suffocating if they're in a crowd.

I'm giving all this information to show the range of conditions that can be cited to motivate smokers to quit the habit. There are differences with what appeals. Lung cancer, as I said earlier, isn't a very good focus for an anti-smoking campaign. The risk of cervical cancer is also greatly increased by smoking, but cancers are generally too distant for people, and the risks can be easily denied by pointing to your chain-smoking centenarian *lolo* or *lola*.

Emphysema's more immediate, and its "slow death" imagery a bit more compelling. The anxiety angle reminds us that the "smoking to relax" argument is a myth. Or you could link the two problems. Nicotine is a stimulant while carbon monoxide and other gases released from tobacco literally smother you, creating more anxieties which then make you think you need to smoke some more. It's the perfect addiction.

Where do the wrinkles come in? There's such a thing as a "smoker's face," the result of having to draw in the smoke several hundred times each day. I remember growing up finding smoking adults so sophisticated as they blew out the smoke. I didn't realize drawing in the smoke was so disastrous for the facial muscles.

Wrinkles don't kill, but they can be used to help motivate people to quit cigarettes. Note, though, that the fear of putting on weight—which happens after people quit because their taste buds suddenly come alive—can also make people go back to smoking.

There's another "threat" you can use with smokers. In some countries, including neighboring Thailand, the anti-smoking warnings on cigarette packs and advertising include an ominous: "Smoking Causes Impotence."

Smoking affects the peripheral circulation, that's the blood flowing to extremities such as fingers, toes and well, yes, that other extreme entity. Actually, reduced peripheral blood circulation doesn't just mean you don't have enough to get it up, but that you might not enjoy sex as much.

Will warnings like "*Nakakabaog ang sigarilyo*" work? Who knows? Maybe we focus too much on fear tactics and diseases. With me, the No. 1 reason to quit wasn't the wrinkles or the emphysema but the gentle protests of a nephew who was about 4 or 5 years old at that time.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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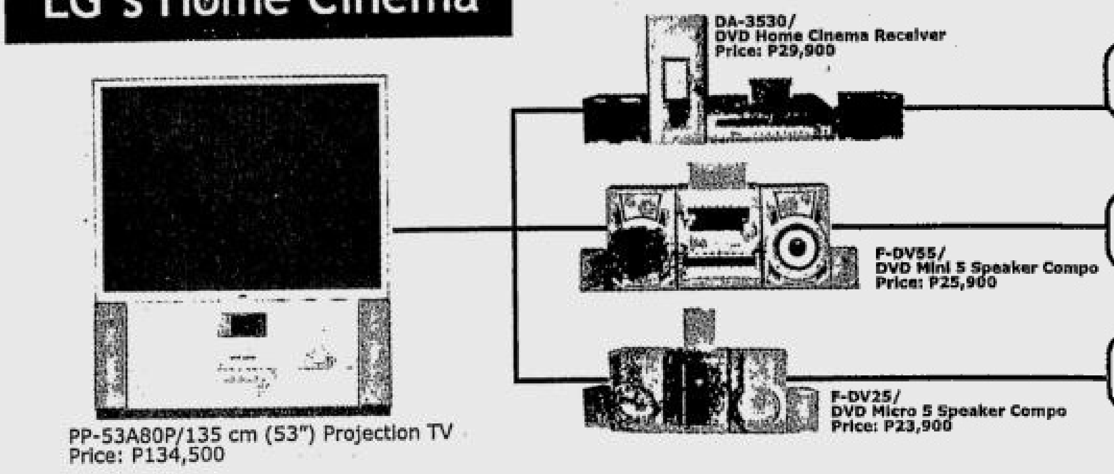

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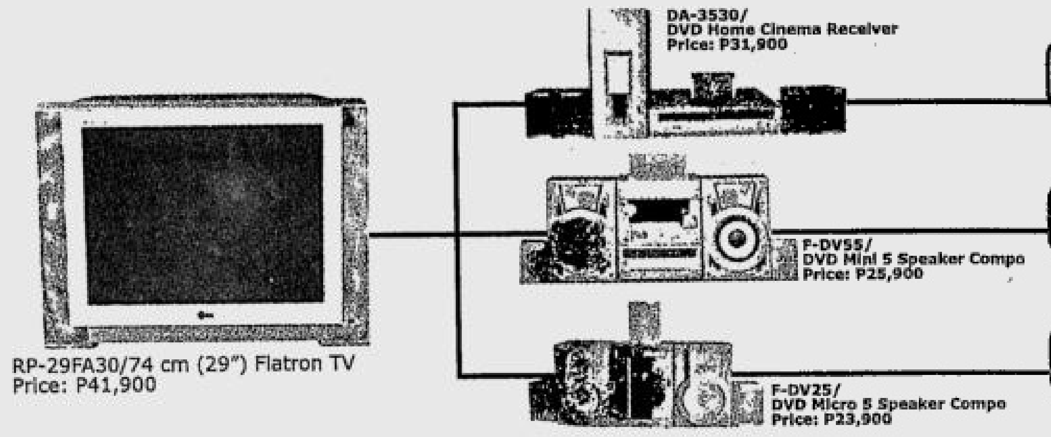

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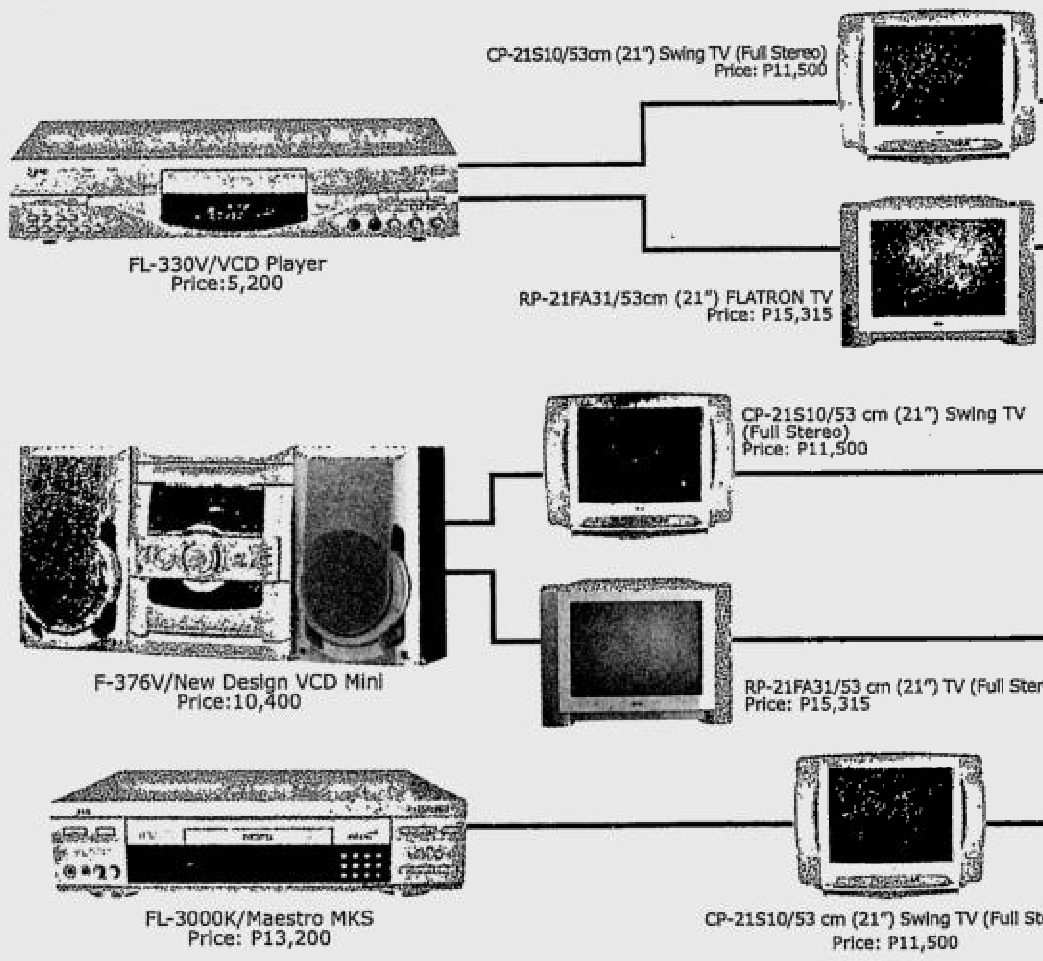

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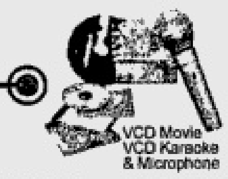

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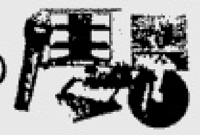

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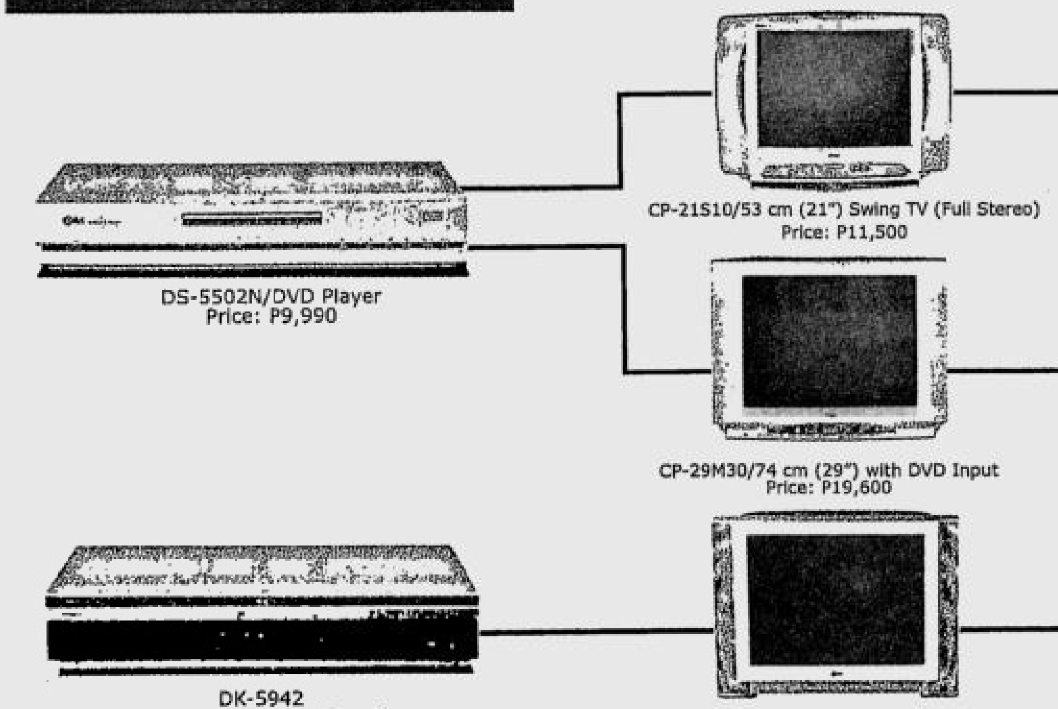

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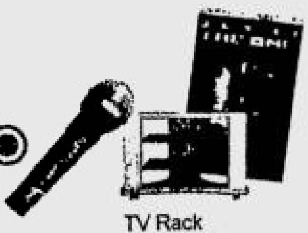

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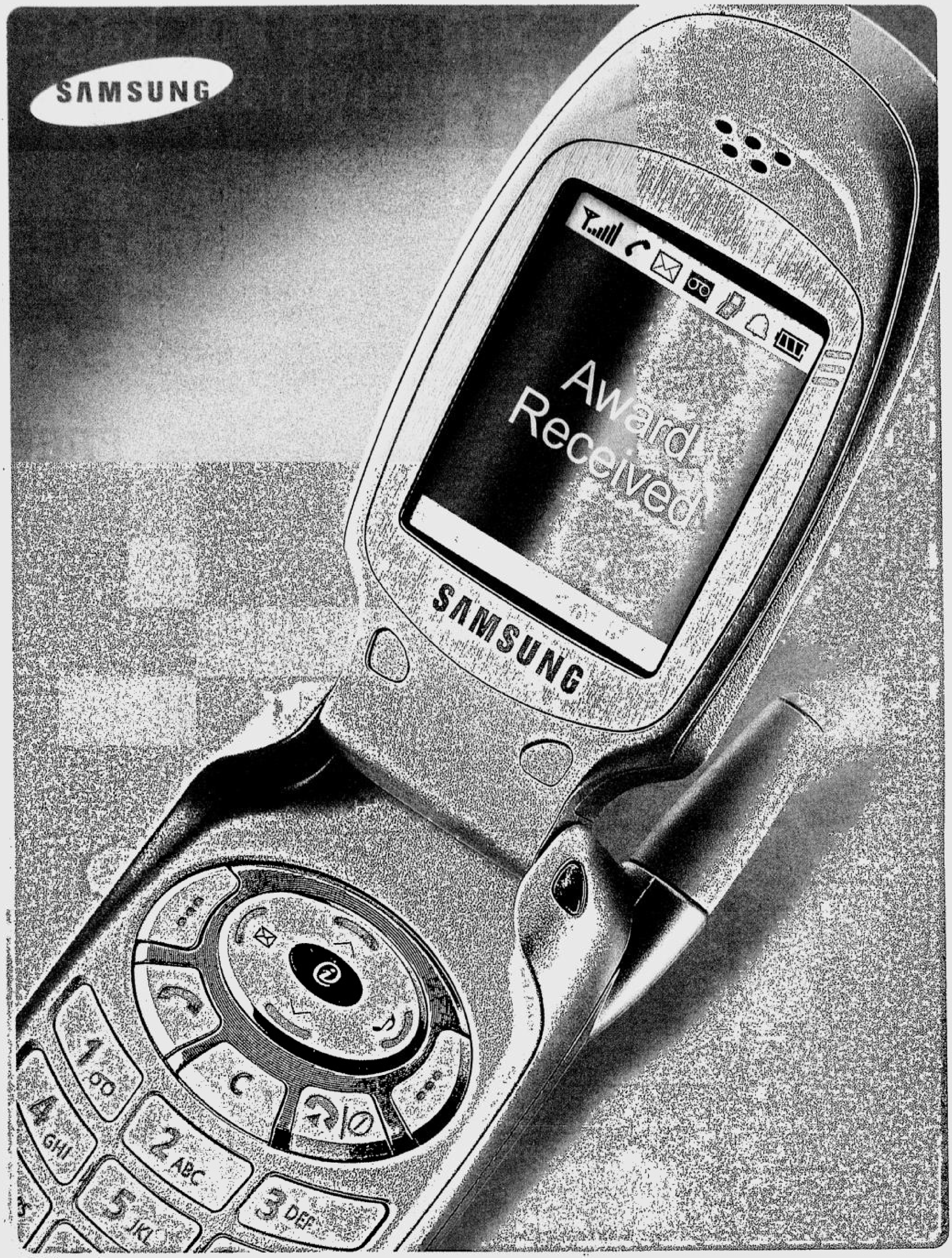

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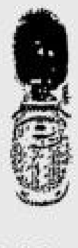
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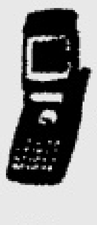
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 30, 2002
8th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **1 P 2:2-5, 9-12**
Gospel: **Mk 10:46-52**

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by, he began to call out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!" Many people scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man saying, "Take heart. Get up, he is calling you." He immediately threw aside his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus.

Then Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Master, let me see again!" And Jesus said to him, "Go your way, your faith has made you well." And immediately he could see, and he followed Jesus along the road..

Commentary

What would you answer if the Lord asks you now "What do you want me to do for you?" Is it something about bingo, office position, investments, power, prestige or pleasure? Or is it rather about increase of faith, solidarity, justice, peace and love? The "what do you want me to do" of Jesus is the best check-up question for us to discover whether we are journeying with him along the way of life or just sitting by the roadside blind and unable to move. When we feel tired or in despair like the blind beggar of Jericho, we should imitate his courage shouting to the Lord "Have mercy, let me see again!" and throwing away the cloak that has covered our fears for so long, to jump up and follow Jesus along the road of life.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Standard of conduct of judges—Rule 3.05 of the Code of Judicial Conduct specifically mandates: "A judge shall dispose of the court's business promptly and decide cases within the required periods." It behooves upon judges to closely follow the standard of conduct set forth in the Code of Judicial Conduct, to preserve the competence and independence of the judiciary and make administration of justice more efficient. The failure of even one member of the judiciary to live up to such standard compromises the entire judiciary and adversely affects the image of the judicial bench before the public. The Supreme Court is aware of the heavy case load of first level courts such as the MTCC. In a number of cases, We have allowed reasonable extensions of time needed to decide cases. But such extensions must first be requested from this Court. A judge cannot by himself choose to prolong the period for deciding cases beyond that authorized by law. Without any order of extension granted by this Court, failure to decide even a single case within the required period constitutes gross inefficiency that merits administrative sanctions. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Saceda v. Gestopa, A.M. No. MTJ-00-1303, December 13, 2001]

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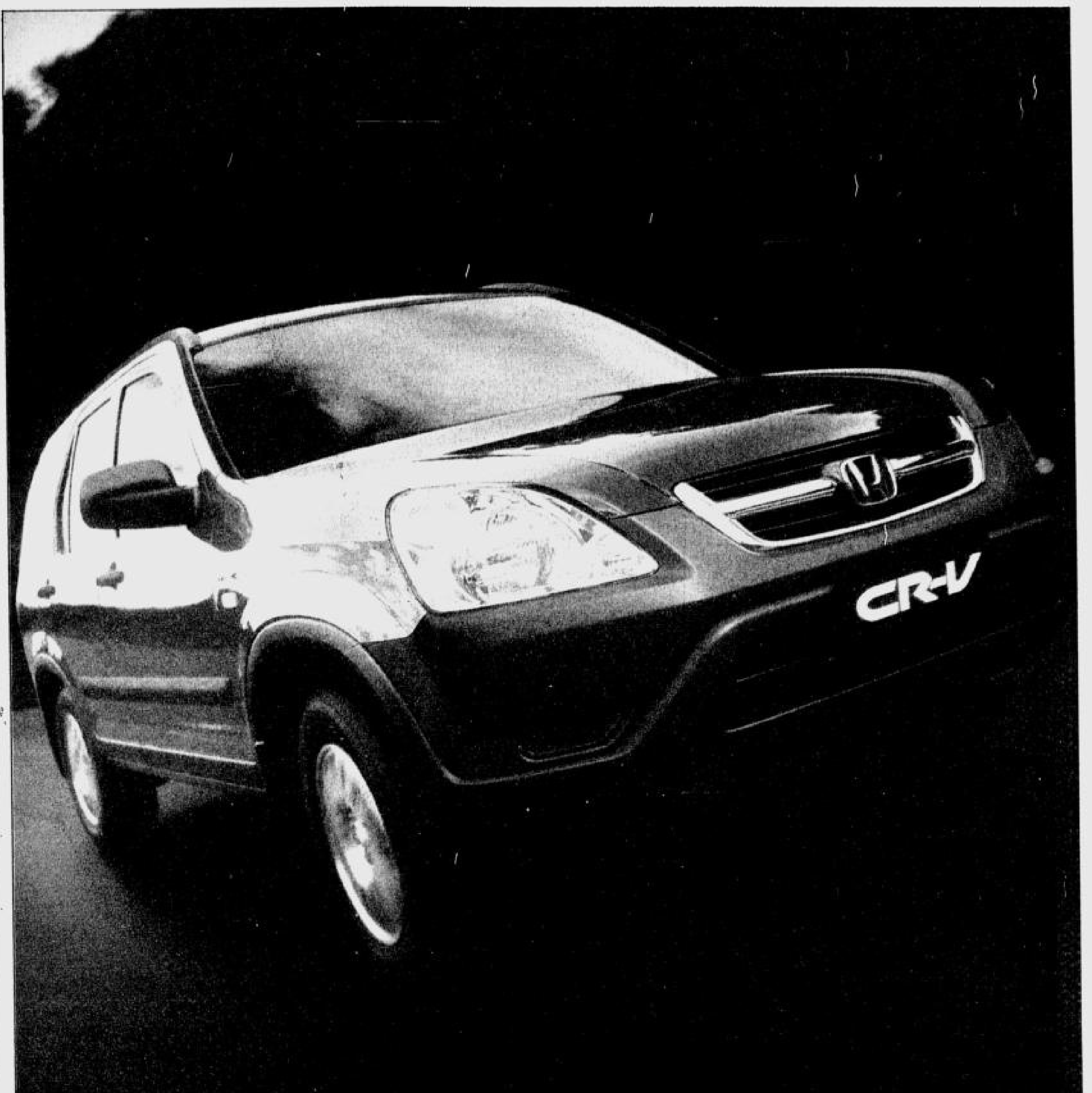

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Libya offers $2.7B for Lockerbie

NEW YORK—Libya has offered $2.7 billion to compensate families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, but US and UN sanctions against Libya must be lifted before it hands the money over, a law firm representing families said on Tuesday.

In a letter sent to Lockerbie victims' families, the law firm said Libya would automatically release the money—$10 million total for each of the 270 families—in batches from an escrow account as three conditions were met.

It said that 40 percent of the money would be released when the now suspended UN sanctions against Libya are lifted, another 40 percent would be released after US commercial sanctions are removed and the remaining 20 percent would be handed over when Libya is taken off the US list of states sponsoring terrorism.

The letter said Libya would put the money into an escrow account in a non-US bank, probably a British bank, selected by the law firm. The money would automatically be released to a plaintiff's committee account in New York as the conditions were met and Libya would not be able to deny payments or pull the money back.

The offer first must be accepted by the victims' families, who sued the Libyan government in 1996. Some representatives of the families took a pragmatic view of the offer, while others said it was a ploy by Libya to get out of the sanctions, imposed after the 1988 explosion that killed 259 mostly American passengers and crew, and 11 residents of Lockerbie.

In January 2001 a three-judge Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands found Abdel Basset al-Megrahi guilty of the bombing, sentenced him to life in prison and said it accepted evidence he was a member of Libya's Jamahariya Security Organization. The court acquitted and set free his co-defendant, Al-Amin Khalifa Fahima.

Al-Megrahi appealed the verdict, but Scottish appeal judges in the Netherlands in March upheld his conviction.

Libya has denied it had any role in the bombing. *Reuters*

13 bodies recovered after barge accident

WEBBERS FALLS, Oklahoma—Thirteen bodies have been recovered following a barge accident over the weekend that caused part of a major US highway bridge to collapse, a spokesperson for the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety said Tuesday.

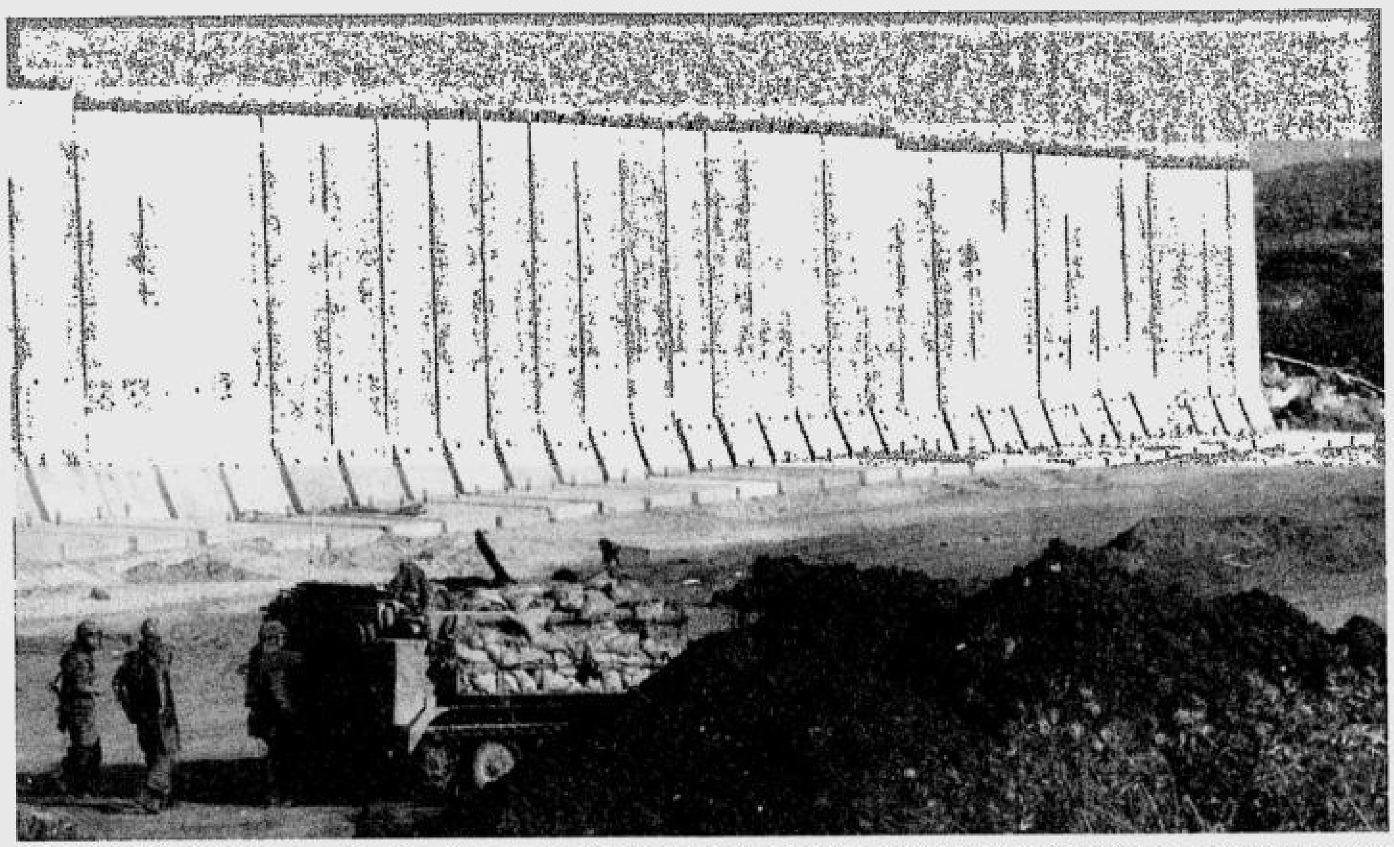
Lt. Brandon Kopepasah said the bodies of seven women and six men have been retrieved from the Arkansas River, after two barges collided and rammed a support structure of Oklahoma's Interstate 40 bridge early Sunday.

The collision knocked an approximately 180-meter section of the bridge into the water, along with several cars and trucks.

Among those killed in the accident was Army serviceman Andrew Clements, 35, who was en route to Virginia from California when the bridge collapsed. The others have not yet been identified, according to Kopepasah, who said that 10 vehicles had been recovered as of Tuesday afternoon.

Four people survived the accident, including two who survived the 18-meter drop from the bridge and were recovered from the water and two who were pulled from a vehicle that had gotten stuck on the bridge, Arnall said.

According to an Oklahoma Highway Patrol report released Monday, 61-year-old Joe Dedmon of the nearby state of Mississippi had been driving a tugboat leading the two empty barges up the river when he "blacked out." He was not seriously injured.



ISRAEL'S BERLIN WALL—Israeli soldiers in an armored personnel carrier secure a wall that Israel is building to demarcate the west bank town of Qalqilya from Israel May 27. Israel maintained its military grip on the West Bank city of Qalqilya and enforced a curfew in Tulkarm as the Army intensified raids into Palestinian-ruled areas. REUTERS

Palestinian gunmen kill 4 Israelis

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian gunman went on a shooting spree at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, killing three Israeli youngsters in a religious seminary before a settler shot him dead.

In a separate incident hours earlier on Tuesday, a Palestinian killed an Israeli resident of Jerusalem and wounded his cousin in a shooting attack on their car on a West Bank road.

As the focus of mounting bloodshed shifted from suicide bombings in Israel to violence in the West Bank—where the Army killed a Palestinian in a raid on the city of Jenin—the United States pondered changing its peacemaking policy.

A US official, speaking to reporters during a visit to Italy by US President George W. Bush, raised the possibility that Washington would set a negotiating timetable for Israel and the Palestinians.

Bush has said in the past that a timeframe for talks was up to the parties themselves.

In the Jewish settlement of Itamar near the West Bank city of Nablus, a Palestinian gunman sprayed gunfire at Israeli teenagers studying at a seminary, witnesses said.

"There are three Israeli dead and two wounded," Benzi Lieberman, a settler official, told Army Radio. "The terrorist was killed by one of the settlers."

Medic Avi Cohen said on Israel Radio: "(The gunman) fired at whoever he saw."

Looking at enemies beyond the West Bank, Israel launched its Ofek-5 spy satellite into orbit, giving its intelligence services an eye in the sky on perceived ballistic missile threats from Iran and Iraq.

In Rome, a US official said Washington was consulting with "friends and allies" on its next moves in trying to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks after 20 months of violence.

"We're talking about how to chart the way forward, and when we have something to say publicly, we will. The idea is, at some point, to lay out how we move the way forward to a political settlement."

Assistant Secretary of State William Burns was headed for the Middle East, and CIA director George Tenet was expected to follow later this week, possibly on Friday. *Reuters*

Mars water may support manned missions

WASHINGTON—Instruments aboard Nasa's Mars Odyssey spacecraft have detected enormous quantities of ice under the Martian surface, scientists said Tuesday—possibly enough to support manned missions to the red planet.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced in March that the Odyssey had detected what appeared to be frozen water on Mars.

Now scientists are marveling at just how much water there appears to be.

"The amount of water present on Mars is sufficiently large that it can support future human exploration activities," said Bill Feldman, research director of Los Alamos National Laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where a neutron spectrometer being used to map the Martian surface was developed.

"The subsurface ice detected by Odyssey may represent only the tip of an iceberg frozen under ground," Jim Bell, an astronomer with Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, wrote in a commentary to appear alongside research results in the Friday edition of the magazine Science.

The findings may also guide the selection of future landing and exploration sites on Mars, and may suggest areas to look for evidence of past life, according to astronomers involved in the research.

Nasa said the amount of water detected "could fill Lake Michigan twice over." Located in the northern United States, Lake Michigan has a surface area of 57,441 sq. km and is 281 meters deep.

Analytical studies of surface maps assembled by Odyssey's three main instruments will appear later this week in Science.

The maps indicate that the highest concentration of possible water ice layers may be buried 30 to 60 cm below the Martian surface, from the edge of the polar ice caps to mid-latitudes of 60 degrees, researchers said.

If the observations are confirmed, they will help answer a question that has puzzled Mars researchers for years: just where the water is. *AFP*

Chandra Levy was murdered, says medical examiner

WASHINGTON—Chandra Levy, the young Washington intern whose remains were found in a wooded area more than a year after she disappeared, was murdered, the city's medical examiner said Tuesday, warning that authorities may never know how.

"It is possible we may never know specifically the cause of her death," Doctor Jonathan Arden told reporters. "There is no specific injury that leads to a conclusion as to a cause of death."

But given the circumstances of Levy's mysterious disappearance last May, her discovery in a remote location of Washington's Rock Creek Park and "other evidence of personal items," he said it was clear she had been murdered.

"The circumstances of discovery are the prime factors to arrive at the conclusion that the matter of death was a homicide," Arden said.

"I cannot determine whether she died there or was brought there," he added, but "her remains are in a condition within a time frame in which she disappeared."

The grisly discovery of the 24-year-old's skeletal remains had changed the case from a missing person search to a death investigation.

California congressman Gary Condit, a Democratic Representative who had an affair with Levy, is not a suspect, police have said.

DNA testing, Arden said, was not being conducted.

"At this point there is no purpose to doing DNA testing," he said, refusing to comment further on any possible evidence of specific injuries.

Arden also declined to comment on whether there were any other fibers or material present at the site that would indicate another person's presence. *AFP*

India, Pakistan trade fire

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—Indian and Pakistani forces fired mortars and heavy machine guns across their frontier in disputed Kashmir on Wednesday as a fresh diplomatic peace push began in New Delhi.

Amid tough talk and fears of war between the nuclear rivals, Australia and New Zealand urged their citizens to leave India and Pakistan. The United States and several other nations have already warned their nationals to stay away from the region.

Pakistani officials said six people died and 20 were wounded by Indian fire into Punjab province in firing overnight.

Several people have died and scores injured since firing in Kashmir intensified after a May 14 attack on an Indian Army base in the Himalayan territory that India blamed on Pakistan-based Islamic militants.

Thousands of people have also fled their homes on both sides.

British foreign minister Jack Straw, the latest in a string of foreign envoys to visit the region, began the second leg of his South Asian peace mission with a series of talks with key ministers in New Delhi to press both sides to ease tensions.

But India on Tuesday said there could be neither peace talks nor any scaling down of its massive military buildup on the border until it sees clear evidence Pakistan has moved against the militants and torn down rebel camps in Kashmir. *Reuters*

THREE-year-old Indian refugee Ashu Sharma looks through a netted door at a migration camp at Samba sector, some 40 km from Jammu, May 29. Thousands of Indian villagers have left their homes at the India-Pakistan border to safer places, fearing a fourth war between the two countries. REUTERS

Pakistan's Musharraf remains a military man at heart

ISLAMABAD—When Pakistan's military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf visited India last last year, he took his wife's advice and left his uniform at home.

Dressed in traditional Pakistan mufti, Musharraf charmed his hosts with his spontaneity and wit, joking with reporters and mingling with ordinary Indians on a walkabout.

But when Musharraf addressed the nation this week to discuss the latest crisis with neighboring India, he was all business—his khaki uniform perfectly starched and campaign medals lined up like troops on parade.

Since overthrowing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless October 1999 coup, Musharraf has appointed himself president and then had his rule controversially endorsed in a referendum his critics say was manipulated.

To many people, the career soldier had become what he said he always detested—a politician. In the latest crisis with India, he has reverted to being a soldier.

Born in New Delhi on Aug. 11, 1943, Musharraf migrated to Pakistan with his family after the partition of British India in 1947. He had his early education in the southern city of Karachi and spent some years in Turkey, a Muslim country he admires.

He joined Pakistan's Army in 1964 and served in an artillery regiment after training at the Kakul military academy in North West Frontier Province.

In 1965, he fought Indian troops in the Khem Karan sector in Punjab province during a 16-day war with India, taking part in intense battles for which he received a medal for gallantry.

In 1971, when Pakistan again went to war with India, Musharraf was among the elite Special Services Group commandos.

Asked during a light-hearted exchange on his visit to India last year whether he was against war, Musharraf turned deadly serious and told his listeners that anyone who had seen fighting, as he had, would always be for peace.

He has held senior staff and instructional positions in his rise up the ranks, commanding armored divisions and infantry brigades along the way.

His last key posting before becoming army chief was in 1995 when, as a lieutenant general, he was commander in Mangla in Punjab province, an important military zone close to the border with India.

Musharraf was appointed Army chief in October 1998 after the resignation of former military chief Gen. Jehangir Karamat.

Married with a son and daughter, he enjoys squash, badminton and golf. He is also a keen canoeist, likes sailing and is well-versed in his favorite subject of military history. *Reuters*

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Across the NATION

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and the Western section of Northern Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. Coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 21° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/30/02

ROUNDUP

Fund drive for museum

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Officials and residents are raising P1 million to restore the 30-year-old mural at the Hiyas ng Bulacan Museum here to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Bulacan. Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said the provincial government would distribute more than 100 coin banks to offices, schools and food chains as part of its fund-raising drive "Piso Para sa Sining." She said the mural, made by Bulacan artists Amadeo Manalad, Miguel Galvez, Reynante Villanueva, Gene Cabrera, Ricardo Lunod, Cenon Rivera and Jose Castro, among others, has deteriorated since its transfer to the museum here in 1993. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

5 nabbed in robbery

BALANGA CITY—Police arrested five people suspected of robbing passengers of a Pasay-bound bus on Roman Highway here on Monday. Arrested were Bliss Pecardal, 20; Elemie Bagalopio, 22; Laureano Lauyon, 22; Nerio Mercado, 19; and Reynaldo Lumantad, 26, all natives of Samar. Supt. Sahiron Salim, Bataan police director, said the suspects divested the bus passengers of their jewelry, mobile phones and money. Recovered from the suspects were three .38 cal. revolvers and two ice picks. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Marijuana uprooted

BAGUIO CITY—Police uprooted more than 270,000 marijuana plants worth P54 million in two villages in Tinoc, Ifugao, last week. Reports said members of the regional police's mobile group found several marijuana plantations in Barangays Ahin and Tulludan in Tinoc. The troops uprooted and burned 273,720 marijuana plants worth P54.72 million and recovered two .38 cal. revolvers from the plantations. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Narra flitches seized

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Following a tip from residents, a joint team of environment and police officials found 5,000 board feet of narra products along the coastal waters of Sitio Tabugan in Baggao town. For four days, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hauled the narra flitches using a banca.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Command turnover

LEGAZPI CITY—Brig. Gen. Efren Abu, newly installed 2nd Infantry Division commander, on Monday asked military officials and soldiers in Bicol to cooperate with local officials and residents in the fight against insurgency in the region. Abu was guest during the turnover of the 202nd Infantry Brigade command from Brig. Gen. Dante Bonifacio to Col. Pedrito Magsino. Bonifacio, who has just received his one-star rank, is now the deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More pili nuts

LEGAZPI CITY—A study made by the Bicol Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Research titled "Benchmark Survey of the Pili Industry in the Bicol Region" estimated that some 63 million pili nuts would be produced in the Bicol region by the end of 2003. The same study showed that Sorsogon has the most fruit-bearing pili trees with 6,615, followed by Albay with 5,204. Camarines Sur has 1,332 fruit-bearing pili trees; Camarines Norte, 1,200, and Catanduanes, 594. The study also revealed that there are at least 2,000 pili farmers in Sorsogon.
Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Sili' queen

LEGAZPI CITY—Azucena Meneses, 41, of Daraga, Albay emerged winner in the first-ever "Sili Queen" search during the annual Magayon Festival of Albay. She ate 220 pieces of *sili* (hot pepper). Second was Suelen Barrameda, 42, of Rapu-Rapu, who ate 219 pieces. Third was 26-year-old Elma Marbella of Daraga, who ate 200 pieces. The Magayon Festival committee did away with the "Sili King" competition this year to give way to the "Sili Queen" search. The first "Sili King" winner was Eriberto Gonzales, 30, who landed in the Guinness Book of World Records after eating 350 pieces of pepper in 1999. In 2000, Armando Martiliana won after eating 550 pieces of *sili*. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

5 men rob van

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—Five men robbed the passengers of a van owned by a bank in Barangay Sta. Maria in Maddela town on Tuesday. Police said the armed men took away at least P700,000 from employees of the Land Bank of the Philippines-Maddela branch who were on their way to Santiago City in Isabela to deposit their cash collection. The armed men flagged down the van when it reached an isolated road stretch in Barangay Sta. Maria at 3 p.m. Tuesday. The suspects forced the van's door open, kicked the driver and poked a gun at the bank's security guard and cashier.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 cops held for seizing drug suspects, demanding ransom

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The head of the police Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) here and his subordinate were arrested on Tuesday night for allegedly kidnapping two cousins and demanding P5 million in exchange for their release.

A joint team of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) and the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID 7) collared Senior Insp. Nicolas Salvador, Cebu City Police Office-DEU chief, and PO3 Razul Segismar during an entrapment operation at the parking lot of the Marriott Hotel past 6 p.m.

Salvador and Segismar denied allegations that they abducted John Ledesma and Melgeb Duterte, of Ginatilan town, Cebu and later demanded money for their release.

The police officers claimed that the two were arrested for drug peddling and were temporarily detained pending follow-up operations for the arrest of a higher-level drug dealer identified only as Liza.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, and Supt. Josephus Angan, acting Cebu City police chief, did not buy the explanation of Salvador and Segismar.

"This is plain and simple kidnapping and extortion in the guise of conducting narcotics operations," Razon said. "Our law enforcers cannot be (the) lawbreakers themselves."

Razon ordered Angan to look into the possibility that other DEU members were involved in the crime.

Both Razon and Angan agreed that the arrest of Ledesma and Duterte was highly questionable and had violated police procedures.

Salvador's team reportedly arrested Ledesma and Duterte past 4 p.m. on Monday at the Robinson's Place on Fuente Osmeña during a buy-bust operation.

Salvador did not inform Angan about the arrest. Instead, the cousins were brought to a motel on North Reclamation area.

Salvador later told Angan that he detained the cousins inside the hotel so he could continue the operation for Liza's arrest.

Duterte's elder sister, who is a councilor of Ginatilan town, asked the help of Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar of the second district after relatives received a ransom demand of P5 million.

Kintanar immediately contacted Razon on Tuesday. Razon, in turn, told Supt. Jonathan Miano, RIID chief, to look into the report and conduct an operation. Miano coordinated with the Naktaf.

Miano said that during the negotiations, the "kidnappers" lowered the ransom to about P1 million and a kilo of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

Miano and the Naktaf immediately conducted an entrapment operation after the payoff had been set.

Two undercover female operatives handed down a bag containing fake money and alum to one of the suspects at the parking lot of Marriott on Tuesday night.

The RIID and the Naktaf operatives immediately pounced on the suspect. To their surprise, the bagman turned out to be Salvador.

Salvador and Segismar were later brought to the CCPO where an angry Angan was waiting for them. When the two were brought to him, Angan immediately confiscated their police badges and service firearms.

Angan ordered the rescue of Duterte and Ledesma who were found blindfolded inside the D'Inn Motel.

During the police line-up, the two identified Salvador and Segismar as the ones who abducted them.

Angan said the two were still under the custody of Naktaf. He said they would be freed if investigation showed they were not involved in illegal drugs.

If investigation showed the two were drug peddlers, Angan said it would not diminish the culpability of Salvador and Segismar.

Razon said Salvador should have informed Angan about the arrest of the two within two to four hours.

JOAN BONDOC

DELICACY
A stall in Obando, Bulacan displays some of the town's delicacies—cakes and pastries made of rice.

DOJ downgrades rap vs mayor to homicide

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Justice has downgraded the murder and attempted murder charges filed against former San Joaquin town Mayor Sebastian Serag who had been charged with killing his political rival three days before the May 11 elections last year.

In a resolution dated May 20, Justice Secretary Hernani Perez ordered the Provincial Prosecutor's Office to amend the information in criminal cases 925 and 926 from murder and attempted murder to homicide and attempted homicide filed against Serag and his 11 co-accused.

Serag and his co-accused were facing charges for the death of Jesus Sibya Jr. and the wounding of his driver Norberto Salamat III in front of the victim's house in San Joaquin, 53 kilometers south of this city.

The DOJ told Provincial Prosecutor Irene Panigbatan to report what action it took 10 days after the receipt of the resolution.

"I feel so bad about the injustice," said San Joaquin Mayor Ma. Daisy Sibya, the widow of Jesus Sibya, who replaced her husband and won the mayoral race against Serag.

She said her lawyers would file a motion for reconsideration before the DOJ. She added that she was still in mourning because justice had not been served a year after her husband's death.

In its resolution, the DOJ upheld the argument of Serag's camp, which requested the review of the information, saying there was not enough evidence to establish probable cause for murder, but only for homicide.

"Taken into account the medico-legal report, it was not possible that Serag could have shot the victim while Serag was about to alight from the Toyota Revo because the trajectory of the (bullets) retrieved from the body of the victim was . . . upward and not downward," the resolution said.

The DOJ cited the medico-legal report and the ballistic report of the police that showed Serag was standing on an elevated area.

While prosecution witnesses said they saw Serag shoot Sibya with a handgun, the DOJ noted that the "physical evidence on record showed that the firearm used in shooting Sibya was a shotgun."

The DOJ did not also find the aggravating circumstances of treachery and premeditation in Sibya's killing.

The resolution said there was "an altercation and heated argument" between Sibya and Serag's associate, Lino Napao, the barangay chief of Balabago, prior to the shooting.

DOLE faces suit for ₱20.9M bouncing check

BACOLOD CITY—The Binalbagan Isabela Planters Association (BIPA) said on Monday that a check worth P20.9 million issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to the group had bounced.

BIPA president Enrique Montilla said the Philippine National Bank branch in Binalbagan rejected twice the Land Bank of the Philippines check number 26207934 for P20.9 million dated April 24 and issued by DOLE to his group.

In his letter to Bienvenido Elorcha, the DOLE regional director, Montilla said they were demanding immediate payment of the P20,997,109.16 or they would sue the department.

Montilla said his biggest concern was to recover the money intended for the group's members.

The P20.9 million entrusted by the BIPA to the DOLE represents the 3 percent laborer's share of sugar milling income provided for by the Special Amelioration Fund stipulated in Republic Act 809.

The money would be distributed to about 20,000 farm workers in central Negros Occidental.

Under the law, whenever a planter mills sugarcane, 3 percent of the income is deducted and turned over to the DOLE. The amount is later deposited as amelioration fund and is distributed to the workers of the planter.

The BIPA mills sugar in the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company Inc. (Biscom), a sugar central operating in Binalbagan, about 70 kilometers south of this city.

BIPA records showed that the DOLE released a P20.9 million check on May 2. When the check was deposited at the PNB branch in Binalbagan town, the check was returned to the BIPA because it bore different signatures.

After correcting the mistake and redepositing the check, Montilla said it was returned to them again for "insufficiency of funds."

During a confrontation with a top DOLE official in Metro Manila, Montilla said the DOLE admitted having a hard time producing the amount.

"They cannot tell us what really is the reason behind it," Montilla said, referring to DOLE. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Bus plows through fiesta dance, kills 3, injures 4

MILAOR, Camarines Sur—Three persons were killed and four others were injured when a passenger bus plowed through a throng of people at a fiesta dance about 2 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Flordeliz, Milaor, Camarines Sur.

Police identified two of the dead persons as Roman Bulao and Samuel Sibulo.

The four injured were brought to different hospitals in Naga City, police added.

No bus passenger was reported injured.

The bus lost direction after an unknown prankster hurled a stone at the St. Jude Bus Line owned by Socorro Buban. The stone broke the bus' front glass shield and hit driver Julio Bonayon of Malilipot, Albay.

Bonayon lost his consciousness and the bus swerved toward where the fiesta dance was being held.

He said he immediately felt dizzy and his sight got blurred. He did not know what happened next but he cried when he learned that the wayward bus had killed three persons.

The driver said the stone thrown at the bus missed his eye by a millimeter. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bayan Muna leader in Mindoro slain in ambush

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—Another leader of Bayan Muna was killed and his companion wounded when unidentified armed men fired shots at the victims a few meters away from the office of the party-list group in Barangay Lumang Bayan, this city, around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Killed was Edilberto Napoles, 26, single, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and coordinator for the second district of Bayan Muna Oriental Mindoro, according to Calapan City police chief Supt. Alexander Aceveda.

Wounded was Ruel Landicho, 24, a resident of Barangay Ibaba East, this city, and coordinator of the local chapter of the fishermen's federation Pamalakaya.

Militant groups condemned the killing as another proof of the military's "open terror campaign" in the island-province.

"What the military wants to create is a climate of fear among the members of the progressive organization to cow them into submission," Pastor Mel Abesamis, Bayan–Southern Tagalog secretary general, told the INQUIRER.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace said in a statement that the military is transforming Oriental Mindoro into a killing field.

Dani Beltran, EMJP secretary general, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to give peace a chance in the province.

Police said the victims were in a tricycle when the gunmen, who were riding a motorcycle, opened fire from behind. Napoles suffered six bullet wounds, including one that tore his forehead.

Landicho suffered a bullet wound in the arm as he was able to jump out of the tricycle when the gunmen started firing.

He was rushed to a local hospital but was transported to a hospital in Metro Manila early yesterday.

Pamalakaya named Col. Jovito Palparan, head of the 204th Army brigade assigned on the island, as a principal suspect behind the assassination.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Palparan but he could not be reached.

Militant groups here identified a certain Aniano "Silver" Flores and Larry "Mike" Aparato, both alleged hit men of Palparan, as suspects in the killing.

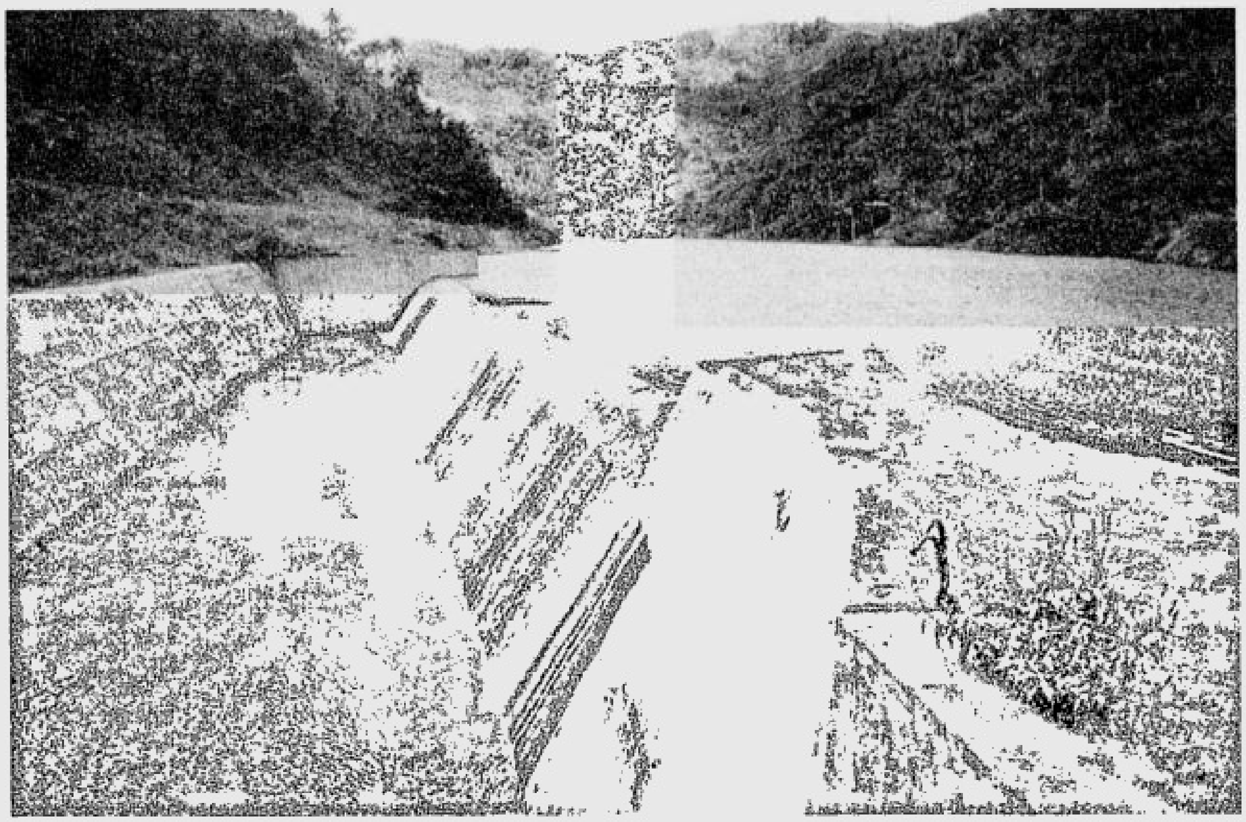
The human rights group Karapatan said Napoles was the 16th victim of the 204th Brigade's death squad since April 2001.

There were 12 murder cases documented since last year in the province and the victims were leaders and active members of groups like Bayan and Bayan Muna.

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Dam project now an empty fishpond

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Caramoan, Camarines Sur



THE UNFINISHED Hanopol Dam in Caramoan, Camarines Sur.
JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

AS THE EL NIÑO approaches and threatens agriculture in the country, some rice farms in far-flung Caramoan town in Camarines Sur are showing signs of drying up. But somewhere in its midst is an abandoned government project that was envisioned precisely to mitigate the impact of the bizarre weather phenomenon.

"We could have doubled our harvest had water from the Hanopol Dam been distributed to our farms. The danger from drought could not have been this serious," a farmer sighed.

The farmer was referring to the P100-million infrastructure facility in the remote barangay of Hanopol that lies wasted due to government neglect.

Originally designed to generate power and irrigate some 250 hectares of riceland in 10 barangays of Caramoan, the dam is now an oversized fishpond with hardly any fish in it.

It is one of several projects under the Small Water Impounding Management Project (SWIMP) that was funded with a government loan of P623 million from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, now the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The loan was approved in 1988, but construction of the dam was started only seven years later, in 1995. The project was supervised directly by the Project Monitoring Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (PMO-DPWH).

As start-up funds, the national government released some P86 million. The dam's power generation component was, however, shelved.

Puzzle

The two local contractors of the project have already collected their fees totaling P86,796,773.31, but the main component, the irrigation canal, has yet to be constructed. This situation has puzzled municipal officials.

Ironically, the project implementors are still requesting an additional P32.1 million to finish the water distribution system. This would raise the total project cost to P128.9 million.

Mayor Marilyn Co said her signature in the request for additional funding, which was forwarded to the DPWH secretary, was faked.

Diversion

The dam was constructed by Green Asia, a firm based in Angeles City and allegedly owned by a certain Renato Legaspi, Co said. The main canal was contracted to two local construction firms—NFI, which is owned by a certain Noel Ipo and Golem Buenaagua, and NFH, which is owned by a certain Jonathan "Aboy" Uy.

She said the PMO-DPWH rescinded the contract of Green Asia in 1998. From then on, NFI and NFH proceeded to build the main canal, which was never finished.

According to the original plan, the main canal would start at Hanopol, passing through Barangays San Roque, Capulutan, Ili Sentro, Pili Sentro, Lubas, Binanuaanan, Cadlong, Tinago and Uroc Usoc, the mayor said.

"But engineer Joventino Ruiz was able to convince the Japanese consultants to skip Capulutan and Ili Sentro . . . , which diverted the path toward a rocky hill," she said. Ruiz, an employee of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), acted as a consultant to NFH, according to an NIA employee, who requested anonymity.

Co said the revised plan complicated the construction process, requiring the blasting of the hill's hard bedrock.

Even if the canal project is finished, it would be very difficult for irrigation water to pass through high elevation from the hill.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Ruiz several times at the NIA regional office but was told by employees that he seldom stays long at the office.

Abandoned

Gregorio Palaya Jr., barangay chair of Hanopol, revealed that of the target length of eight kilometers, only about 250 meters of irrigation canal were completed.

The 20 landowners, who gave right-of-way to the project, also have yet to receive payment from the government, he added.

Palaya said the local contractors left the area one midnight and abandoned the project, without even the courtesy of informing them. The contractors and the PMO-DPWH did not bother to turn over the project to the local government, he said.

Juan Cordis, who served two terms as Caramoan mayor and is now a councilor, said the dam was conceived when he was still the local chief executive in 1986. It was supposed to be completed in one and a half years, he said.

Aside from the initial release of P86 million, Cordis said another release was made for right-of-way claims. Total payment given to the landowners was at least P136,000, according to documents kept by Vicente Azaña, chair of the municipal council's committee on agriculture, natural resources and cooperatives.

Despite the fund releases, only the dam was finished with just a segment of the main canal constructed.

Cordis said they followed up the project several times at the PMO-DPWH office in Manila, but officials there only promised to look into the matter.

Senate inquiry

On March 22, the Caramoan council passed a resolution asking the Senate blue ribbon committee, chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, to conduct an inquiry into the unfinished irrigation system in Hanopol.

Co said the request was sent to the Senate by mail, but Azaña, who headed the council's committee on agriculture, natural resources and cooperatives, expressed surprise that the council resolution was already signed and sent by the mayor.

Azaña alleged that the faked request of P32.1 million, which the mayor has denied signing, was the brainchild of one of her personnel. He did not name the staff member involved.

"I have challenged Mayor Co that if she denies the request, she should deny it all throughout," he said.

Azaña said the funding Japanese bank has conducted an investigation into the project last March. He said JBIC representatives had asked him to withhold any information about the project until they finish with the evaluation.

He said the PMO-DPWH had also made a similar request until its director obtains a pledge from NFI and NFH to finish the main irrigation canal.

"I will divulge all information about the project in a press conference should they fail to keep their promises," Azaña said.

Traditional healers tapped for Bicol tourism campaign

By Roly Embile
Daraga, Albay

ISABEL Noya demonstrates the healing of the "parasantiguar" on a volunteer patient.

PHOTOS BY ROLY EMBILE

A "PARAHILOT" demonstrates her skills during the meeting of spiritual healers in Daraga, Albay.

INSTEAD of going to the police for help, a middle-aged woman who lost a cell phone over the weekend went to Milagros Sinda Vibar, 39, at the Cagsawa Park and Resort in Daraga town in Albay.

From a neat stack on the table in front of her, Vibar got a 2 inch-by-3 inch piece of bond paper, dabbed it with coconut oil from a recycled bottle, and mumbled an *orasyon* (a prayer said in barely intelligible language).

"Your missing cell phone has been taken and is now with a relative, or someone close to you, but it is not worth retrieving it because it might cause you more harm than good. Doing so might even endanger your life," Vibar advised the woman in mixed Filipino and Bicol.

The client took her word seriously and later said she trusted the seer who has a reputation for finding lost objects and persons perhaps far better than some of the best police detectives in town.

Convention

That Friday, Vibar, who hails from Camalig town, was among 20 spiritual healers invited by the Daraga Tourism Council, the barangay council of Busay and the Cagsawa Park and Resort to give free healing sessions and other services, as well as to demonstrate their craft as a tourist attraction.

Concepcion Alcera, a member of the tourism council's board of directors, said the ways of the *parahilot* (chiropractor), *paratandok* (dog bite healer), *paratambal* (snake bite healer), *parahimalad* (palm reader), *parasantiguar* (one who casts away evil spirits), *partira* (midwife) and a few other practitioners have been part of folk tradition.

Over a hundred persons practice these crafts actively in Daraga alone, Alcera said. But others from neighboring Camalig town, Legazpi City and other places came to what turned out to be the first convention of spiritual healers and folk caregivers in Bicol.

"Close to 80 percent of the residents of most far-flung villages in this town, who could rarely afford to go to the doctors, rely on them for a variety of ailments," Alcera said.

Apart from its great potential to attract tourists as an age-old local tradition, the organizers were careful not to openly endorse or attest to the effectiveness of spiritual healing, she said.

But about 100 of those who availed themselves of their services, mostly residents of Legazpi and other urban areas, declared that they were cured of various ailments and were thankful to their healers.

When the "patients" were asked to comment on the services during the open forum held later in the day, no complaint was aired.

Choices

Most of the healers have been chosen by the "spirits," Vibar said. "Not one among us chose to become a healer. In fact, most of us initially refused to heed the call of this sacred mission. Some were in doubt first, and many others were scared."

Her husband was likewise chosen by a spirit to be a healer, she said. In her case, she said the spirit—that of the child Jesus—came to her several times, asking her to accompany Him in His missions of preaching and bringing comfort to the afflicted.

In the medical profession, Vibar might be compared to a general practitioner.

"I am a *parahilot, parasantiguar, parahinibang* and a *parahimalad,* and I engage in a handful of other healing areas in the realm of the spirits," she said.

She confessed to even being a medium when people come and ask her to communicate with their departed kin and loved ones.

Her healing and comforting work, like most practitioners, are but a small part of the mission demanded by the *Niño Hesus,* she said.

"We go to many places where most of us cannot even imagine going to if not guided by the Holy Spirit. In those places, we try to help people pray and share with them the understanding of our mission of heeding God's will," she said.

'Orasyon' and herbs

Isabel Noya, 43, also of Camalig, Vibar's travelling companion and herself a spiritual healer, said that when they go on a mission, they bring almost all the things they would need.

What they have virtually cover a full range of paraphernalia and cures for every conceivable pain and illness, Noya said. On top of the list are a foot-high crucifix, candles, a bottle of coconut oil, a porcelain plate and white strips of paper.

The plate-candle combo, one of the most popular and widely imitated gimmickry, serves much like an X-ray machine to determine possession by an evil spirit. The healer reads patterns of soot formed on the plate's surface when placed over the lighted candle.

Vibar uses a variation of the technique, which starts with an *orasyon.* With a strip of white paper placed on the patient's forehead, she would know whether an evil spirit or *naungman* lurks within, she said.

If the presence is "positive," she starts another *orasyon* imploring the evil one to leave.

Most of the widely popular but indispensable medicines the healers bring with them are a variety of common herbs found in many areas in Bicol and perhaps the whole country.

The *buyo* leaf, also used by old people who chew the *nganga*, is a cure against the *sibang* or *usog* among the Tagalogs. The *sibang,* a common affliction among children, is acute stomachache, sometimes accompanied by headache and vomiting.

The *paltan,* a wild vine which, when boiled, is an extremely bitter concoction, is believed to cure diabetes. For coughs and cold, the *lagundi* (eucalyptus) leaf is a popular cure.

Other plants believed to be medicinal are the *turog-turog* or *makahiya, tanglad* for hypertension, and *upak,* the dried bark of the coconut tree that has been hit by lightning, for nervous breakdown.

The *pangontra,* which casts away bad spells, includes the *sampaguita* and other flowers, which have been used to adorn the image of the *Hinulid* (interned Christ) in Calabanga town in Camarines Sur, and a piece of cloth worn by the image.

Vibar and Noya claimed to have an especially powerful *pangontra* called the *santo ara* from shells and stones found only in the deep chambers of the Huyop-huyopan Cave in their hometown of Camalig.

In everything they do, they start and end with a prayer in front of a lighted candle as the symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Crucifix, Vibar said.

Referral

Noya and Vibar admitted, however, that they do not touch sick persons who need the attention of medical professionals.

"When a doctor's professional attention is needed by a person who comes to us, we do not hesitate to refer him to one because we cannot do what they can," Vibar said.

She stressed that the medical practitioners belong to a very noble profession, but they have no power to heal what belongs to the spiritual world.

She also believed that with an organization supported by both government and private groups, the traditional healers would also have a good chance to "professionalize."

During their meeting, most of the practitioners agreed to organize and achieve a national and international solidarity among spiritual healers.

Before the day ended, Vibar blessed some of their talisman, crucifixes and other paraphernalia.

"If we can bring comfort to the sick, find missing objects and become tourist attractions as well, so be it. We can only thank God for these blessings," Vibar said.

GMA: No to takeover of Meralco, extra powers

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the proposal to grant Ms Macapagal emergency powers. Senate President Franklin Drilon said emergency powers were unnecessary as Congress and the Office of the President were addressing the problem of high power rates.

"The President is not asking for it in the first place," Drilon said.

The suggestion came from former President Fidel V. Ramos, who is credited with solving the power crisis in the early 1990s with emergency powers. He is now accused of entering into onerous contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) that resulted in the prohibitive electricity rates.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the President had no need for emergency powers to bring down electricity rates.

Dialogue

Afable said Malacañang, Congress and the other stakeholders were already engaged in "constructive dialogue."

"We're confident that this issue (high electricity rates) can be resolved by consensus without resorting to emergency powers," he said at a news briefing.

In the House, 38 legislators led by Rep. Rolex Suplico sought to authorize the executive branch through the Department of Justice "to exercise the power of eminent domain for the purpose of expropriating, wholly or partially, independent power producers and other private companies involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity."

They invoked Section 18, Article XII of the Constitution, which says that "the State may, in the interest of welfare or defense, establish and operate vital industries and upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the government."

"The power of eminent domain is the ultimate right of a sovereign power to appropriate, not only public, but even private property of all citizens within the territorial sovereignty, for public purposes," says the explanatory note of House Bill No. 4865.

Suplico said the power of eminent domain was among the three powers inherent in the government. The two others are the powers to tax and to police.

"But you need a law to guide the exercise of the power of eminent domain and this bill proposes to grant this," Suplico added.

Expropriation is nothing new because the government has been doing this on real estate, mostly when it involves right-of-way projects, according to Suplico.

The proponents said the bill was a "remedy to the rising cost of electricity," which, they noted, was a result of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges.

"With the ultimate goal of having the taxpayers become the owners of these utilities, based on the principle that he who pays should own the thing he paid for, a solution aimed at the heart of the problem—the IPP contracts, and not the symptoms—the PPA, is offered to Congress and to the nation," the congressmen said.

Suplico said he and the others filed the bill because there was no viable solution being proposed to resolve the high electricity rates.

Under the proposed bill, the power of eminent domain would be exercised only to expropriate the following property or rights:

- IPPs with contracts which are grossly disadvantageous, or onerous to the government, or entered into beyond the authority granted under Republic Act No. 7648, the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993.
- Other private companies involved in the power industry whose financial obligations are guaranteed by the government.

The authority granted to the DOJ to exercise the power of eminent domain "shall be valid and effective for a period of 10 years from the effectivity of this act."

The bill proposed the setting aside of P500 million to implement the provisions of the act.

Requisites

The Constitution has laid out four requisites before government can takeover public utilities like power and telecommunication companies, according to Sen. Renato Cayetano.

That a national emergency exists, that the takeover will be for the national interest, that it will only be temporary, and that the owners will be properly informed of the conditions of the takeover are the requisites.

"I don't see any national emergency. Besides, we still have other available remedies such as legislation," Cayetano said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said a government takeover of Meralco would create more problems because of the "legendary inefficiency" of the debt-ridden National Power Corp. (Napocor).

"We have seen how government runs businesses," he said. He said the government should instead use its 24 to 30 percent stake in the power distribution giant to push for lower electricity rates.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said the House proposal "is a wake-up call for all of our distribution companies to perform better. They really have to be a lot more efficient," he said.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said that she had misgivings about the proposal as it runs counter to the government's privatization policy.

She said a takeover would spook prospective investors expecting a deregulated environment more conducive to business in the Philippines.

She said amending the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) would help lower power rates because the law would prevent power distributors from unreasonably jacking up their rates.

Sen. Blas Ople said the trend worldwide, including the former communist countries, was to privatize the bloated state companies.

Step backward

He said it would be a "step backward" if Congress granted it.

Sen. Juan Flavier said the proposed takeover was easier said than done.

"It's easy to say but difficult to do because it will entail a lot of money to operate it," he said.

For his part, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the government was the least efficient when it comes to managing business.

On emergency powers, Magsaysay said the President had all the powers to solve this problem.

"I don't think she needs any emergency power, otherwise she would have asked for it," he said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said he never favored any grant of emergency powers to the President. He said that when Ramos asked for it in 1993 he opposed it because it was an "emergency power to steal."

Ill-advised

Angara calls Ramos' proposal "ill-advised and unnecessary."

He said opposition senators would fight efforts to arm the President with emergency powers through amendments to the Epira.

The reckless application of such powers was the root of the country's high power costs and the current crisis in the power sector, according to Angara.

"The operating words should be reform, transparency, efficiency in the power sector, not vesting the President with emergency powers that are prone to abuse," he said.

"So many crimes and indiscretions had been committed under the cover of emergency powers. Let us put a stop to this," he said.

Sen. Vicente Sotto said he was one of four senators who opposed the grant of emergency powers to Ramos in 1993. The three others were then Senators Ernesto Maceda, Raul Roco and Wigberto Tañada.

"If during Ramos' time, I voted against it, you know my vote now," Sotto said.

Proponents

Those who filed HB 4865 were Suplico, Representatives Ronaldo Zamora, Ted Failon, Teodoro Locsin Jr., Carlos Padilla, Satur Ocampo, Augusto Syjuco Jr., Marcelino Liban, Didagen Dilangalen, Antonio Nachura, Edgar Espinosa, Berthobal Ancheta, Rodriguez Dadivas, Liza Maza, Eduardo Veloso, Agapito Aquino III, Enrique Garcia Jr., Oscar Gozos, Arthur Pingoy Jr., Aleta Suarez, Crispin Beltran, Celso Lobregat, Abraham Mitra, Augusto Baculio, Loretta Ann Rosales, Raul Villareal, Reynaldo Uy, Gilbert Remulla, Rozzano Biazon, Emmylou Santos, Gabrielle Calizo, Perpetuo Ylagan, Hussin Amin and Josephine Ramirez-Sato.

In the resolution seeking to review or recall the Meralco franchise, congressmen led by Rep. Jacinto Paras want more hearings "so that Meralco may be allowed to explain why it is imposing the PPA charges on its already heavily burdened consumers." ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Ping, judge thank God for SC decision

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the two-year prescriptive period.

The judge, who "provisionally dismissed" the cases in 1999 and swore Lacson in as senator last year, reached for similar biblical language, calling the decision Solomonic.

"That was a manna from heaven for the accused," said Court of Appeals Associate Justice Wenceslao I. Agnir Jr., who handled the cases as an RTC judge. "The accused can now invoke Section 8, Rule 117 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure," Agnir told reporters yesterday in his office in Manila.

Meeting the media for the first time since the high court met for en banc deliberations, Lacson said he and his co-accused scored a major triumph. He lauded the court for "ruling fairly" when it ordered QC Regional Trial Court Judge Theresa Yadao to determine whether the prescriptive period had elapsed when the Department of Justice revived the Kuratong cases in April 2001.

Lacson said that Yadao had to rule on whether all the parties involved in the cases were properly notified of the provisional dismissal. He maintained that the DOJ acted to reopen the cases a few days after the prescriptive period expired.

"That was a close shave," he admitted. "*Muntik na kami doon* (They nearly got us)."

Mixed reactions

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed the decision. "This is not persecution. This is prosecution. It is the duty of the government to prosecute," she said in a nationwide radio interview yesterday.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the ruling showed that "justice (is) moving forward."

"We have full confidence in the Supreme Court and the lower court. We know everybody will be given due process and justice will prevail in the end," he said.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon criticized the decision as a "copout or, in street language, *iwas pusoy*."

"The Supreme Court did not resolve anything. By throwing back the issue to the QC RTC, the tribunal did not live up to its role as the final arbiter of legal issues," Drilon said in a statement. He said it would have been "preferable for the sake of both parties (if) the SC issued a more definitive ruling."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo, a member of the administration coalition, said "there were no winners, no losers" in the ruling.

"This way, Lacson gets a reprieve while the government gets (a chance) to reopen the cases," he said. Arroyo added that it was only right for the tribunal to remand the cases to the QC RTC because the high tribunal "is not a court of facts, but a court of laws."

The Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), which had acted as private lawyers for the Kuratong Baleleng victims, slammed the high court for its unexpected decision.

A FLAG statement said it was "extremely dismayed" by the decision of the high court remanding the cases to the RTC for further proceedings.

"To us the ruling was a copout. Rather than acting decisively on the case, the court passed the buck to the trial court when it could have decided the (petition) squarely and resolved the issues without prolonging the agony."

FLAG pointed out that "if those in high office can get away with murder, then something must be very wrong with our legal system."

Minor victory?

Agnir maintained that the government also won a legal point. "But in a sense, the government also scored a minor victory in the high court," he said.

"It's in their favor because the Supreme Court did not outrightly dismiss the petition or forever bar the state from reviving the cases," he said.

He pointed out that the tribunal also ordered the QC RTC to allow the DOJ to justify the delay in the revival of the cases. "The DOJ was even allowed to prove that the delay was due to compelling reasons," he said.

When asked if the controversial Rule 117 indeed allowed such exceptions, he replied: "That's what the court says."

Agnir was appointed by then President Joseph Estrada as CA associate justice some two months after he issued the provisional dismissal in 1999. Agnir, who will retire on Sept. 29, officiated at Lacson's swearing-in last June.

Only 13 justices participated in the final deliberations the other day after Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Jose A.R. Melo inhibited themselves.

A confident Lacson said his lawyers would be able to convince Judge Yadao that the other parties were indeed properly notified.

"We will also show proof that everybody was notified as brought out by the presence of the public and private prosecutors. Anyways, we won't have had any hearing if both parties were not represented," Lacson said.

"(Justice) Secretary (Her-nando) Perez was saying all the wrong things about the case. He didn't make mention of the 'notice' needed in these cases," he added.

Lacson pointed out that the 20-year prescriptive period that Perez maintained was applicable in the Kuratong cases was wrong.

"The distinction here is that the 20-year prescriptive period applies to cases which have not yet been filed. This is not such a case," he said.

But unlike his colleagues in the Senate opposition, Lacson said the decision was not politically motivated.

"I don't want to think that way. The presumption is this is a court of law acting regularly. (To say that it was a political accommodation) would be too speculative," he said.

Re-raffling of cases

At the DOJ, State Prosecutor Peter Ong said government lawyers were planning to ask Yadao to re-raffle the cases to other judges.

"We might ask the QC RTC to re-raffle the new criminal cases pending before Judge Yadao," said Ong.

He stressed that even the defense panel led by lawyer Sigfrid Fortun had raised the idea when he elevated the cases to the Court of Appeals.

"At the CA level, I do recall that he was arguing for the court to re-raffle the cases. So to avoid any further trouble, we might as well ask for the re-raffle to settle the issue," he said.

If Yadao grants the request, she will inhibit herself from the cases, allowing another QC judge to comply with the tribunal's ruling.

Yadao was appointed to the RTC by Estrada, reportedly upon the endorsement of his brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Agnir said his "decision (in 1999) is not under question" but the lapse of the prescriptive period.

He told reporters that he dismissed the cases for lack of probable cause.

"What can I do? There was no evidence at the time. I dismissed the cases because the affidavits of the witnesses, which were the basis of the Ombudsman complaints, were all retracted."

He said provisionally dismissing the cases was legal. "That can be done based on jurisprudence," said Agnir who stressed that at the time there was no Section 8, Rule 117 to speak of.

"I dismissed the cases but the government can revive them anytime if they have evidence to prove the charges," said Agnir.

Judicious judgment

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto welcomed the SC ruling.

He said the decision was "now an opening" for both sides to thresh out the factual issues of the cases. "They can now seek relief from the lower court . . . and fight it out there," said Desierto, who described the decision as "judicious."

Desierto defended the high court against accusations that it had played safe.

"The high court must ensure that no essential issues of facts are overlooked," said Desierto. "It does not gather facts and evidence, it's the trial court that does it."

He said that the court cannot just rule without certainty of facts because "otherwise it will be rushing the processes of law."

He was referring to the uncertainty on whether the period for the revival of the cases had already lapsed.

"The way I understand it, the Supreme Court wants the lower court to act on the fundamental issue of whether there is justification for the revival of the cases and whether the requirements for provisional dismissal were complied with by the lower court that issued the order."

In particular, he said the question on whether all the parties were notified by the Agnir court before it dismissed the cases on March 29, 1999 should be answered.

"This will require the admission by the court of evidence of compliance with the rules. And on the basis of the findings of the court, it is empowered to determine if there is justification for the revival of the cases."

Thus, he said, the ball is now in the hands of the court.

"Whatever is the ruling of the lower court, it can still be brought back to the Supreme Court on certiorari. So it will still be a very long process."

But Desierto lamented that Agnir had dismissed the cases without even conducting a trial. "He did not ask for evidence or arraign the accused. He just dismissed the cases on the sole basis of the retraction executed by the private complainants." ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Ong to Lacson: Lord will soon take you

From page A1

tics. There are black maneuvers we have no control of. They control everything out there," former police Insp. Ismael Yu said in an interview Tuesday night at the military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Yu had executed an affidavit claiming that he led the police team that raided the Kuratong Baleleng's safehouse in Parañaque City on the night of May 14, 1995 and arrested eight male suspects alive.

Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former anti-narcotics agent who testified on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged links to drug syndicates in the Senate last year, said the decision gave the witnesses some hope for a possible reopening of the case. But she was quick to add that the ruling did not resolve any issue.

"The decision was hanging. Why did it have to remand the case to the same RTC judge who dismissed the case? And aren't 15 heads better than one? What can the RTC judge do that the Supreme Court justices can't do?" Ong said.

Ong challenged Lacson to face the charges. "It's about time you took responsibility for what you did, for the people you had killed. The Lord will soon take you," she said.

Lawyer Leonard de Vera, chair of e-Just, agreed with Ong, saying that the SC ruling did not resolve the issue of whether Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of the principal accused, "should be made to face trial."

"This decision did not answer that question. It looks like there will be some more delay in this case before the people will even see the day when Lacson will face trial, if ever the final decision will hold him to face trial," he said.

Another witness, Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos, declined to comment on the high court ruling.

"I will always be here ready to testify if ever that time comes," said the officer, who also executed an affidavit claiming that he was part of the team that fired on the vans carrying the suspects on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Active service

Of the 36 police officers implicated in the alleged rubout case, records show that 27 are still in the active service, three have optionally retired, two have resigned, two have gone absent without official leave, one is detained and one had already died.

Chief Superintendents Francisco Zubia Jr., now assigned at the Headquarters Support Services in Camp Crame; and Rodolfo Caisip, PNP director for Northern Mindanao, are the two top-ranking active officers implicated in the crime.

Those who have opted to resign were Deputy Director General Jewel Canson, Director Romeo Acop and Chief Insp. Vicente Arnado.

Lacson, the former Philippine National Police chief, resigned early last year after then President Joseph Estrada was ousted by a military-backed popular revolt amid charges of massive corruption. SPO3 Juanito Manaois also resigned.

Those declared AWOL were Lacson's former aides: Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao III, who fled to the United States last year to evade arrest in connection with the abduction-slay of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Insp. Robert Langcauon is now detained at the Manila City Jail in connection with the Dacer-Corbito slay case. Senior Insp. Ferdinand Marticio was killed in action.

"It will be easy to account for those still in the active service (if the need for them to appear in court arises)," said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, PNP spokesperson.

He said, however, that it would be up to the court to summon those who had already retired and had gone AWOL if the case were reopened.

Gloria skips Pulag

From page A1

voiced their opposition to her scheduled attempt to scale Mt. Pulag in Benguet, the country's second-highest mountain.

Some said the large presidential entourage would disturb the mountain's ecological balance, while others said the visit might upset the mountain's spirits, sacred to the Ibaloi and Kalanguya tribes. The tourism department was even reported to have hired an Ibaloi oracle to protect her from any evil spell.

Yesterday, in yet another nationwide radio interview, the President took one step back in order to take one step forward. She said she wasn't going up Mt. Pulag on June 5 anymore; instead, she was going to climb an even more famous mountain, Mt. Pinatubo.

"They might be disturbed if I use a helicopter and bring in several companions with me," Ms Macapagal said in an interview over Radyo Bombo. She did not say whether she was referring to the opposers or to the mountain's 50 divinities.

Aside from being a pantheon of gods, Mt. Pulag boasts of rare fauna and flora, such as the cloud rat and dwarf bamboo.

"They told me that my helicopter could disturb Mt. Pulag's flora and fauna and they were concerned that I would have a large entourage so I decided to climb Mt. Pinatubo instead," Ms Macapagal said.

"It will be a big boost for tourism in Mt. Pinatubo if I go there," she added.

Once thought extinct, Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991, burying a great part of Central Luzon under millions of tons of lahar or volcanic mudflow. The eerily bleak crater landscape is now a favorite haunt of mountain trekkers.

But the volcano is also considered a sacred mountain by the Aeta tribespeople.

Green light?

But according to an official of the Philippine Information Agency in the Cordilleras, the President will still climb Mt. Pulag, but later this year.

The trip was actually suspended because of rains that have been affecting Baguio City and Benguet since last week. Palace insiders told the INQUIRER that an advance team from the Presidential Security Group had to brave strong rains, near-zero visibility, thick fog and slippery terrain when they made a preparatory climb last week.

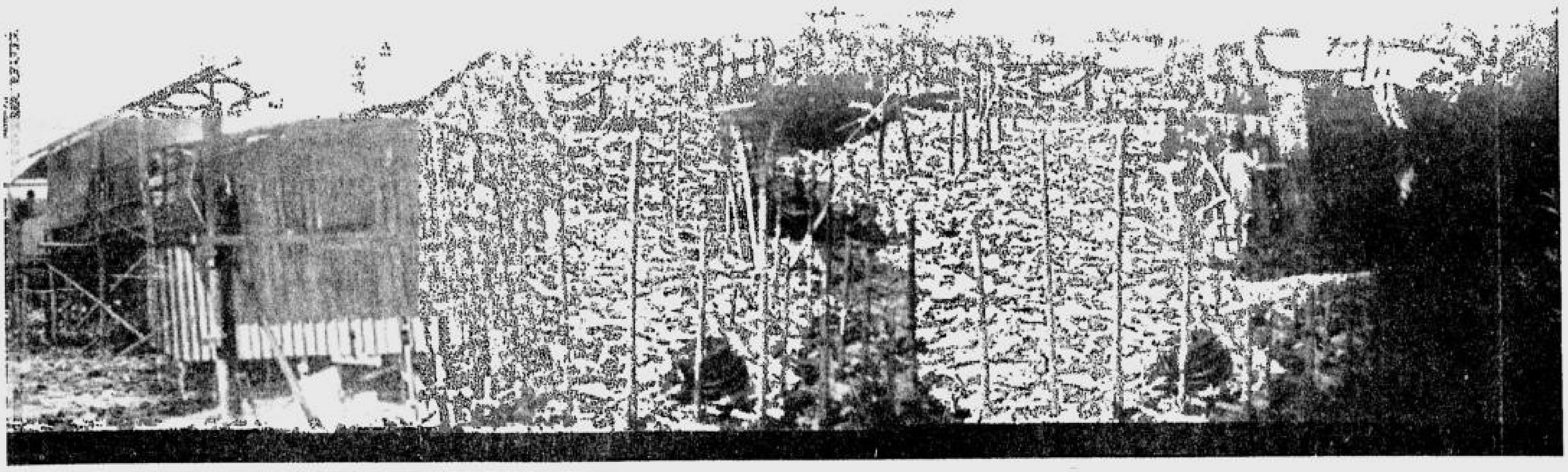
"In the first place, the presidential chopper could not land because of the weather. The President cannot make it because I understand there is a typhoon, (which) I hope will not extend until next week," said Purificacion Molintas, regional director of the Department of Tourism.

Molintas said she believed there was an appropriate date for Ms Macapagal's visit and the DOT is keeping its hopes up that the President can explore the mountain in October or November.

"Benguet's foundation day in November is the perfect time for the President to visit the mountain and our province is more than willing to welcome her to see our wealth of wonders," Molintas said.

Rising 2,922 meters above sea level, Mt. Pulag is next only to Mt. Apo in Mindanao in altitude.

The President has engaged in various outdoor sports, such as scuba diving in the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan and white-water rafting in Cagayan de Oro, to promote eco-tourism in the country. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes, Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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2002 ABC Champions Cup, Preliminary Round at 11 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. on Star Sports

NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE

Bibby beats LA with Horry-like jumper

SACRAMENTO, California — Mike Bibby hit the winning shot with 8.2 seconds to play as the Sacramento Kings beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 92-91, Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) to grab a 3-2 lead in the NBA Western Conference finals.

"I wanted the shot all the way, and I knew it would go down," Bibby said. "I can't say why. I just knew it. It felt right."

Bibby scored 23 points, and Chris Webber had 29 points and 13 rebounds as the Kings moved within one game of the franchise's first trip to the NBA Finals since 1951. The euphoric victory erased the Kings' memories of their heartbreaking loss in Game 4 when Robert Horry sank the winning jumper with time expiring.

In a thrilling series swinging on dramatic shots and superstar feats, Bibby and the Kings came through again. Bibby scored the game's final four points, and Kobe Bryant, who scored 30 points, missed a jumper with one second remaining that could have won it.

Game 6 is Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) in Los Angeles. If necessary, Game 7 will be back at Sacramento's Arco Arena on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Bibby's poise on the final shot was an extension of the Kings' rapidly evolving late-game poise—a trait that's become the Lakers' hallmark during their run to two titles.

"This is my first year here, and I'm just happy to contribute," Bibby said. "I think there are a lot of people on the team that can take that last shot. I just happened to hit it. My confidence level is really high right now."

After Shaquille O'Neal fouled out with 3:22 remaining, every possession was fraught with tension. Los Angeles took an 89-88 lead on Bryant's jumper with 2:09 left. Samaki Walker and Bibby traded free throws, and Vlade Divac blocked Bryant's shot on a rambling drive to the hole.

After the ball was tipped out of bounds on the other end, the Kings called a timeout. Coach Rick Adelman diagrammed the Kings' regular inbounds play.

As Webber and Bibby walked up the court, Bibby said: "If you get me the ball, I'm going to make it."

Bibby inbounded to Webber, who set a pick on the right wing while handing it back to Bibby –and the Kings' point guard buried a 6.3-meter (22-foot) shot as Arco Arena exploded.

It's easy to forget that this is the first playoff experience for Bibby, who won a national championship in college at Arizona, but spent his first three NBA seasons in Grizzlies obscurity before last summer's trade for Jason Williams.

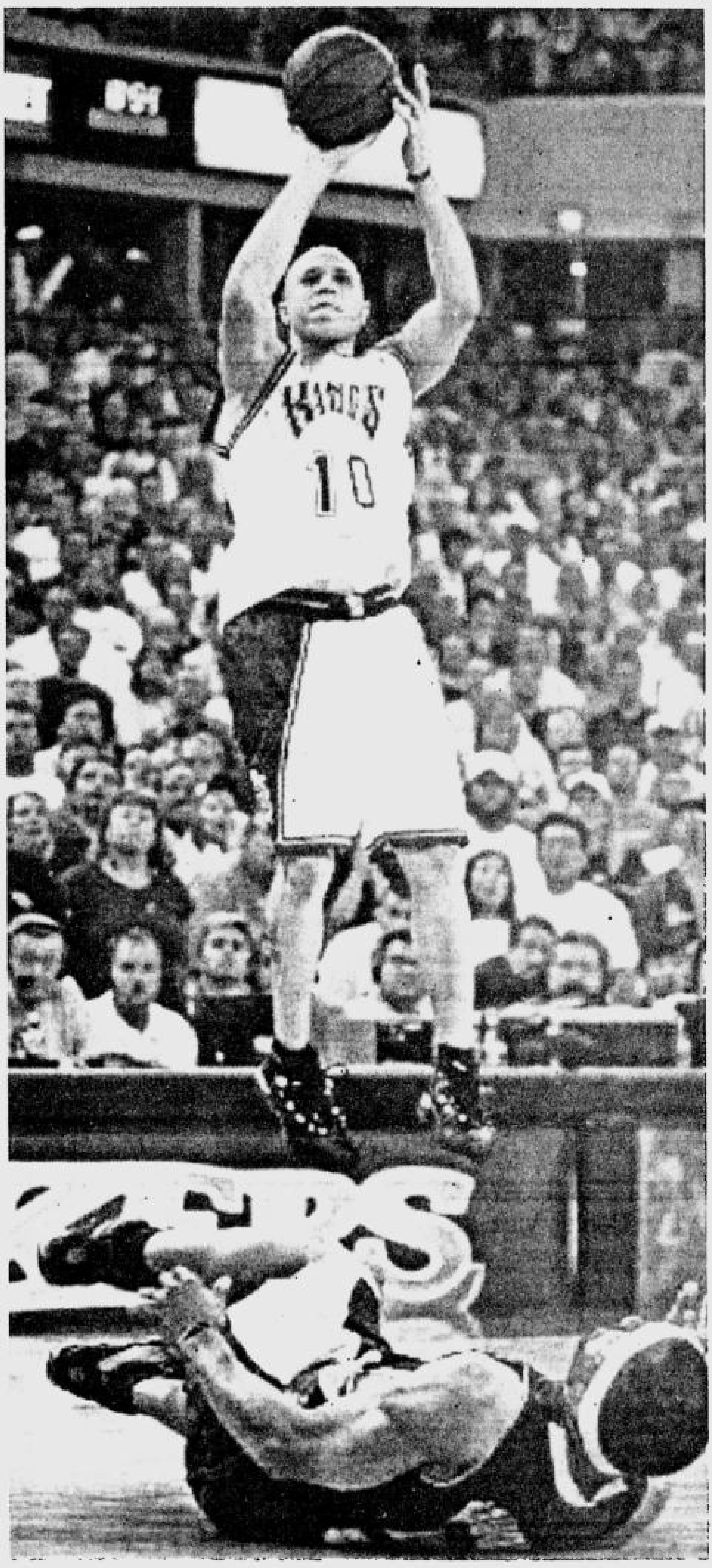
The Lakers got the ball to Bryant on the other end, but he may have waited too long to make a move. He settled for a 5-meter (16-foot) jumper with Bobby Jackson's arm in his face, and it bounced off the rim.

"I knew he'd try to spin baseline–it's his favorite move," Jackson said. "I was thinking, 'Please miss. Please, please miss.' He's a great player. He doesn't miss many shots."

O'Neal played another remarkable game, but foul trouble kept him stewing on the bench with an infuriated frown for much of the night.

O'Neal had 28 points—16 in a phenomenal third quarter—and seven rebounds. But he shot just one free throw, and he was sitting three meters (10 feet) from Bibby when he hit the game-winner.

The return of All-Star Peja Stojakovic, who missed six games with a sprained ankle, didn't help the Kings much. Rick Fox, who struggled in the series' previous two games, held Stojakovic to two points while scoring 16. *AP*



BIBBY (10): "I just happened to hit it. My confidence level is really high right now." AP

Kidd fears for his family

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Jason Kidd feared for the safety of his wife and 3-year-old son because of drunken fans who taunted them during the Eastern Conference finals in Boston.

Kidd was booed every time he touched the ball during Monday's Game 4, which the Nets won, 94-92, to even the Eastern Conference finals.

Kidd said Tuesday he had no problem with the boos, or the chant of "wife-beater" that was directed at him. But he said his wife, Joumana, and son, T.J., received worse treatment from some intoxicated fans.

"It bothers me. I can't protect them. I'm worried about them at the same time I'm worried about trying to win a ballgame," Kidd said. "You can't do that to somebody's family, put them in jeopardy for their safety. They came there to enjoy the game just like (Celtics fans) did."

Kidd was charged with striking his wife in January 2001, when he was playing for Phoenix. The charges were dropped when Kidd underwent anger counseling and paid a fine, but the episode harmed his reputation and helped lead to his departure from the Suns.

Kidd's wife and son have become quite a high-profile family in New Jersey as the Nets have advanced through the playoffs. One newspaper runs a "T.J. Watch" after every game, describing details of the photogenic 3-year-old's behavior from quarter to quarter.

Kidd's son has accompanied him to the podium at postgame news conferences, and photographers have captured the youngster's mimicking of his father's body language.

Some newspapers ran side-by-side photos Tuesday of Kidd and his son holding up two fingers on each hand - the gesture Kidd made at the end of Game 4 to signify that the series was tied 2-2. **AP**

Kutitap sparkles; Shark falls

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—Kutitap Toothpaste vs Blu Sun Power
5 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Ateneo-Hapee

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUTITAP Toothpaste whipped Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation, 77-68, while ICTSI-La Salle outlasted Shark Energy Drink, 71-69, yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Despite the loss, the Blue Eagles kept the solo lead with a 10-4 mark, with the Sparklers and the Green Archers in hot pursuit with 9-5 records. Shark kissed its finals bid goodbye with a 6-9 mark.

The win was sweet revenge for Kutitap which lost by a hairline, 66-67, to Ateneo during the eliminations, while ICTSI La Salle recorded its second straight win with Mike Cortez orchestrating the plays.

With the surprisingly easy win, the Sparklers, who upped their semis record to 3-0, are now two games short of securing a playoff for a finals berth. It also evened up matters between Kutitap coach Koy and older brother and Ateneo mentor Joel.

Acrobatic Cyrus Baguio conspired with Nino Gelig, Mark Saquilayan and Allan Salangsang to give the Sparklers a hot start which they sustained till the final buzzer.

Baguio and Gelig exploded as Kutitap hinted of things to come, 26-11, in the first quarter.

With a report from Emil Cabrera

Scores:
KUTITAP 77—Salangsang 17, Saquilayan 17, Baguio 15, Gelig 11, Jones 8, Dy 4, Catli 2, Sison 2, Mercado 1, Mallari 0, Rivera 0.
ATENEO 68—Villanueva 17, Fonacier 16, Chia 6, Gonzales 6, Domingo 6, Anicete 6, Cruz C 5, Quimpo 2, Cruz 2, Alvarez 0.
Quarters: 26-11, 42-26, 62-39, 77-68

Little guys play big for RCPI

THE SMALL guys delivered the big plays for RCPI Negros over the weekend as the Slashers posted a 2-0 lead over the LBC Batangas Blades in their MBA First Conference title series at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

In Game One, 5-foot-8 Dennis Madrid was the star as he fired a game-high 20 points to lead the Slashers to an 89-80 victory over his former teammates.

Barely 21 hours later, it was 5-foot-9 Dino Aldeguer's turn to shine as the Slashers repeated over the Blades, 75-68, to move within a win of sweeping the best-of-five series.

Aldeguer, who has blossomed into a starter under new coach Joshua Villapando, hit three straight triples in the third quarter as the Slashers finally overtook the Blades. And when the Blades rallied, Aldeguer stopped them on their tracks with two clutch free throws with 90 seconds left.

Villapando has defined roles for both. He uses Aldeguer for deliberate, half court sets and inserts Madrid when he wants an open, speedy game.

Madrid and Aldeguer are again expected to play crucial roles when the Slashers gun for the clincher in Game 3 Saturday night at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center.

4-cock derby today

THE PAMPANGA Invitational Four-Cock Derby will be held at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City starting at 7 tonight. Hosted by Jun and Rudy Jingco, the derby coincides with the San Fernando fiesta. National Cockers Association stalwarts taking part are Jorge (Nene) Araneta, owner of the Big Dome in Cubao; three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun "Idol" Santiago, Rep. Rudy Albano, Pacifico and Frank Berin of Mulawin fame, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, Alex and Gerry Escalona, former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and Louie Cua. The United Cockers Association of the Philippines will be led by Patrick Antonio, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Vic Yu, Joey and Boboy delos Santos, Mayor Jessie Viceo, Jet Fernando and Ramon Manzenares.

INTERVILLAGE GOLF

Corinthian tops Philam bets at Wack Wack

CORINTHIAN Gardens turned Wack Wack's west course into a virtual playground yesterday, scoring 299 Stableford points for a runaway victory in the Nokia Intervillage North golf tournament played under the scorching summer heat.

Corinthian Gardens, which topped the first round of the 12-to-play, eight-to-count tournament with a 295, played even better in the final 18 holes for a 594 total, way ahead of last year's North champion Philam Homes which had a 288 for 564.

Coming in third and also earning a slot to the Nokia Grand Intervillage in November was Don Enrique Heights which scored a 279 for the second straight round en route to a 558 total in the event organized by Videocom in 1991.

PLDT, Alaxan, ICTSI, Mastercard, Mizuno, National Sports Grill, Philippine Airlines, Pisanti and 357 Boracay also support the Nokia Intervillage, which aims to develop friendship among the different golfing villages.

Landing fourth was Acropolis (283-557) followed by White Plains (286-553), Filinvest (283-530), La Vista (265-527), Xavierville (268-507) and Ayala Heights (243-500). Only the top three teams will advance into the Nokia Grand Intervillage.

Lucio Tan Jr. once again carried the load for Corinthian Gardens, matching his first-round total of 40 points as he towed John Tan with 38, Valentin Chua (38), Ferdinand Aguila (38), Stewart Go (38), Hedy See (37), Rene Chua (35) and Paul Yap (35). Those whose scores did not count were Edgar See (34), Juanito Go (34), Art Alarilla (35) and Richard Go (32).

The final round of the Nokia South is set June 4, Nokia East June 17 and Nokia Central June 28—all at Wack Wack's west course.

The venue of the Nokia Grand Intervillage in November has yet to be decided.

Enervon supports triathlon

THE 9TH Subic Bay International Triathlon received a big boost recently with the entry of Unilab as tournament sponsor.

Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco and Enervon brand manager Dennis Dizon signed the sponsorship agreement with Shinzen production manager Ichu Arcan, Trap pro Carlo Carrasco and Unilab media coordinator Reggie Berba as witnesses.

The triathlon is slated Sunday.

Lewis-Tyson fight highlights NBN sports bonanza

MAJOR boxing, cycling, billiards and all-time favorite basketball events highlight the National Broadcasting Network's midyear sports bonanza.

NBN Chair Mia Concio has lined up these programs, highlighted by the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson championship bout, as part of its continuing effort to bring marquee international sports events closer to the Filipino people.

"What we're having is a sports festival of sorts leading to the Asian Games this September in Busan, Korea," said Concio. "With these events, the Filipino people will be privileged as witnesses to these world-class events. That makes the National Broadcasting Network truly the Philippines' Sports Channel."

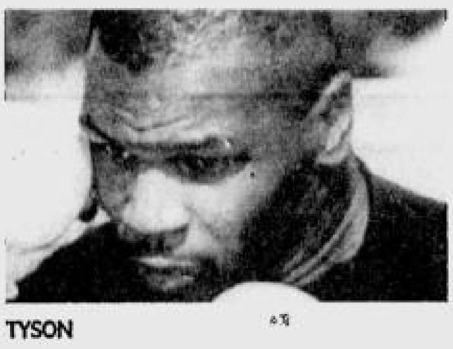
The much-awaited championship match between reigning three-time world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and former champ Mike Tyson is set on June 8 (June 9 a.m. Manila) and will be aired live from the Pyramid Arena in Memphis Tennessee.

On June 7, NBN will have a primer on the said boxing bout from 6-8 p.m. while the main event will be telecast on June 9 starting 8:30 a.m. with boxing experts Chino Trinidad, Quinito Henson and Gov. Manny Piñol giving the viewers minute-to-minute analysis of the celebrated title bout.

Lewis puts on the line his World Boxing Council (WBC), International Boxing Federation (IBF) and International Boxing Organization (IBO) heavyweight titles.

Of special interest for Filipino boxing fans is the undercard title bout of the Philippine pride Manny Pacquiao who will be defending his IBF super bantamweight crown against Colombia's Jorge Elicier Julio.

"We are enthusiastic about continuing the sports programs of NBN and share the excitement of sports enthusiasts who continue to support us," said NBN network general manager Joey Isabelo.



TYSON

World Cup: Injured Zidane bugs France

SEOUL, South Korea—Veteran French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff says if given the chance he would be comfortable replacing the World Champions' injured star player Zinedine Zidane.

"Zidane is an irreplaceable player, but for me it would not be a problem to take his place," the Bolton player told a Wednesday news conference. "I'll just play Youri's style and we'll see afterward."

Djorkaeff seems the most likely replacement for Zidane, who was ruled out of Friday's World Cup opener against Senegal with a torn thigh muscle. He is also uncertain for the remaining first-round games against Uruguay and Denmark.

Djorkaeff said French coach Roger Lemerre had not decided who would take Zidane's place, but made it clear he felt up to the job.

"I hope I can just give the best in the World Cup for France and for me," the 34-year-old attacking midfielder said.

Zidane, who scored twice in France's 3-0 win over Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final, is the team's undisputed star and regarded by many as the world's top player. But Djorkaeff urged his teammates to come together after losing the Real Madrid midfielder.

"This injury must not sow doubts or concern within the team. The team must come together even more," the former Inter Milan player said. "The French team relies on team work, not on individuals."

"What's important is to get by the first round and get Zidane back for the knockout stage," he said. The teams reaching the second round of 16 will be eliminated with a single loss.

Ordinanza rules Triple-V fishing meet in Cagayan

HENRY Ordinanza upset the veterans in the 46-angler field during the four-day Triple-V 45th national sport fishing tournament of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation (PGFF) at San Vicente in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

Supported by Triple-V Group president Victor V. Villavicencio, Ordinanza caught three sailfish and a tanguigue (123.2 kg).

Terry "Butch" Tam of Hong Kong was second with a sailfish and three other fish at 85.1 kg. Mark Rosales, head of the newly formed Manila Anglers Club, was third.

Ordinanza shared buddy boat champion team honors with Tony Tycangco; 2nd place buddy boat: Mark Rosales and Jojo Joson; 3rd place team: Terry Tam and Noel Flores.

Alex Ngo's Tackle shop gave five custom-made fishing rods to the daily heaviest fish winners including the over-all heaviest fish—Ordinanza's 44.8 kg sailfish.

Other winners: Joson for 10.5 kg dorado; Ignacio Locsin, 9.3 kg barracuda; Edwin Guzman and Terry Tam, both 13.9 kg tanguigue; Edwin Fernandez, 14.8 kg wahoo.

Edwin Guzman seized the overall Angler of the Year (AOY) lead from PGFF prexy Rey Buencamino. Bert Lingayo is running third.

The next event is the Toots Echauz billfish bash on June 13-15, followed by the Standard Insurance Tuna driftfishing in Palawan July 12-14.

For details, call Rose Aberin of PGFF at 373-0743/373-0248, e-mail: pgffrose@edsamail.com.ph or visit the PGFF Web site: http://www.pgff.com.ph/

SPORTSWATCH

Japan sends home World Cup scalper

TOKYO—A British man carrying a bag filled with 175 World Cup tickets was refused entry into Japan, an immigration official said. The man, who was in his 30s, was detained at Tokyo's Narita International airport on Monday after arriving from London because he failed to explain the purpose of his visit, Masanori Yamanaka said. He was sent back to London on Tuesday, Yamanaka said. Yamanaka declined to give the man's name and wouldn't say whether he thought the man had planned to scalp the tickets.

Buenavista gets support from Defensor

PHILIPPINE Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor yesterday said he is throwing his unqualified support to Eduardo Buenavista, who is training for the Busan Asian Games in September. Buenavista, who holds the rank of an airman first class, is now in Baguio City after winning one gold and two silver medals in the recent Asian Athletics Grand Prix. "I'm very flattered by Gen. Defensor's gesture," said Buenavista over the phone. "This is certainly a big boost for me and also for other Air Force enlisted men now serving the Philippine team."

Pareb golfest June 21 at Aguinaldo

VILLAR

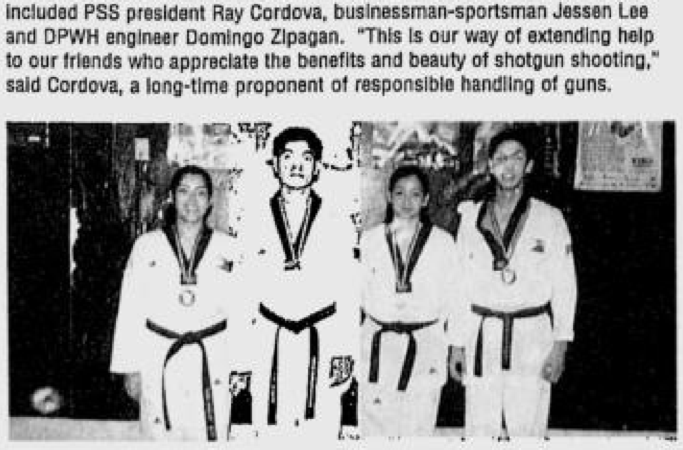
THE PHILIPPINE Association of Realtors Boards Inc. will hold the Pareb-Sen. Manuel Villar Golf Invitational Tournament on June 21 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course. Tee-off is at 7 a.m. with Villar, Gov. Rodolfo Valencia , Gov. Obet Pagdanganan and Gen. Jose Bello Jr., Pareb chair and past president, hitting the ceremonial balls. Pareb president Luis Melchor Serquiña, Francis Jalbuena, Geronimo Manzano and Victor Benavidez are the tournament's prime movers. Pareb is the premier realty service organization with 36 local boards nationwide and 1,500 Realtor-members who are either realty brokers, appraisers, consultants, bankers or owners-developers.

Paragua stops defending titlist Gomez

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua defeated defending champion John Paul Gomez Tuesday to move within two games of winning the premier Under-20 title of the Philippine Youth Age-Group championships at the 2/F Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Paragua, playing black, essayed a King's Indian Defense against Gomez to score the win in 31 moves to improve his tally to 6.5 points after seven rounds. The 18-year-old grandmaster-candidate will face Abraham Bayron in the eighth round, one of the two remaining stumbling blocks in his bid for a first ever national junior title.

PSS holds seminar on shotgun shooting

THE PHILIPPINE Sportsmen Society (PSS) recently gave a series of combat-silhouette shotgun shooting instruction to gun hobbyists. The instructors included PSS president Ray Cordova, businessman-sportsman Jessen Lee and DPWH engineer Domingo Zipagan. "This is our way of extending help to our friends who appreciate the benefits and beauty of shotgun shooting," said Cordova, a long-time proponent of responsible handling of guns.



ASIAN TAEKWONDO MEDALISTS
Four of five members of the Petron Philippine team who won medals in the recent Asian taekwondo championships in Amman, Jordan display their awards. From left are Margarita Bonifacio (bronze), Dindo Simpao (silver), Veronica Domingo (silver) and Donald David Geisler III (bronze). Also winning a bronze was Daleen Cordero.

FedEx Tour bikathon is on

THE LONG wait for the revival of the cycling tour finally ends today as the FedEx Express Tour of Calabarzon kicks off at 8 in the morning at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta.

Sixty riders from 10 teams will vie for fame, honor and glory apart from the close to P1 million in prizes at stake.

Members of the national squad were distributed to the teams for the four-stage event covering 571.7 kilometers within the Calabarzon growth area.

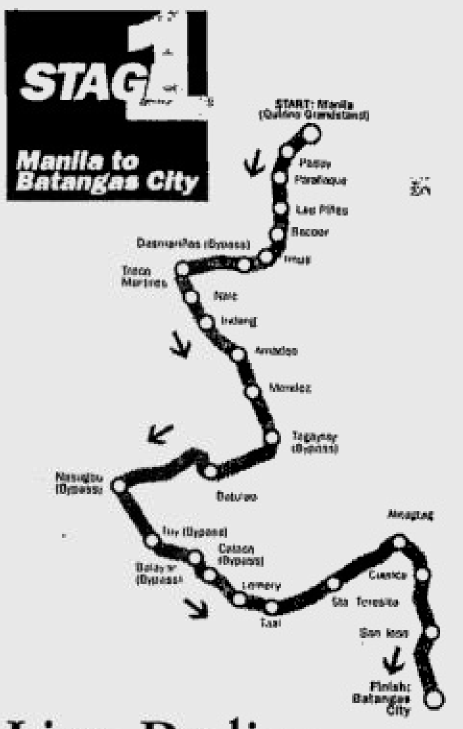
"This is it," said Bert Lina, chairman of Airfreight 2100, the sole franchisee of FedEx in the country.

"This is what we've been waiting for. The chance to revive the Tour and the sport of cycling begins this very day and all of us at Airfreight 2100 are as excited, perhaps even more, than the cyclists themselves," he said.

Lina had earlier vowed to bankroll the event to the tune of P300 million spread in the next five years in a drastic effort to put the country in the world cycling map.

The top individual finisher will pocket P50,000 while the best team will go home with no less than P200,000.

DILG chief Joey Lina will fire the starting gun during the flag-off of the event which will also have Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain as guests of honor.



SELES SHOOTS AHEAD
Monica Seles returns a shot to Spain's Angeles Montolio during their first round match yesterday in the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. Seles won, 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-0. Other results: Aniko Kapros upset Justin Henin, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0; Kim Clijsters defeated Tatiana Poutchek, 3-6, 6-3, 8-6; Shinobu Asagoe beat Anastasia Myskina, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5; Eva Bes ousted Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-3; Martina Muller trounced Amanda Coetzer 6-2, 6-2; and Anne-Gaelle downed Magdalena Maleeva 6-2, 6-4. Also advancing are Hicham Arazi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Tim Henman, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Karol Kucera and Jiri Novak. AP

Hilado Cup netfest

THE DEADLINE of entry for the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup Tennis Championships is on May 31, 12 noon, at the Philta office at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The country's top men and women players are expected to join the event to be hosted by the Negros Occidental Tennis Association (Nota) headed by Dr. Severo Lacson.

Players may register with Loida Mallare and Cesar San Juan at the Philta office (tel. Nos. 525-6434 and 523-6415). Entry fees are P300 for singles and doubles, P300 for singles only and P400 for doubles only. Qualifying dates are June 1-2 while the main draw will start on June 3.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, Mario Castro clocked 15:53 to bag the Coke 5K Classic in Makati City. Also today in 1987, Joann Chan shot a 2579 to snare the first archery tryouts for the 14th SEA Games at the Rizal archery field.

Lim, Rodica Clorets champs

JUANITO "Jun Jun" Lim Jr. and Mark Rodica became the inaugural champions of the Clorets Urban Hunt last weekend.

"We kept on praying the entire race," the duo, both 25 years old, said after besting 29 pairs in the Clorets Urban Hunt.

The champions, carrying the team Knights of Mary Immaculate, won P100,000.

"I'll give part of my winnings to our parish (in BF Parañaque) and spend some for my tuition fee," said Lim, who is a sophomore Law student at San Beda.

Rodica said he would help defray the birth expenses of his sister.

Team Knights of Mary Immacualte, second in the second leg eliminations last May 4, actually reached the Rockwell Center tennis courts—the kickoff and finish points—third.

The duo were not even the quickest in solving the final puzzle at the finish. But thanks to the penalty slapped the team that finished ahead of them—both in the endurance side and the puzzle-solving part, they emerged champions.

Second was the Wanderers of Astrid Padilla and Allendry Lozalondro and third was Team Extreme of Marcelito Olympia and Gina Tobias. The Wanderers earned P25,000 and Team Extreme P15,000.

Ateneo's Canlas barges into Alibor q'finals

SECOND seed Christian Canlas of Ateneo outclassed Alain Richard Alarcon, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to reach the boys' 14-under quarterfinals in the Alibor-Philta Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Canlas will face Xavier's Joshua Tan Ho, who defeated seventh seed Gerard Bergavera, 6-3, 1-0 (ret).

In other matches, Chung Soo Han upset No. 6 Russell Arcilla, 6-3, 6-3 and Gerard Pinili eliminated No. 8 Johnwill Baldonado, 6-2, 6-1, to join No. 1 Raymond Villarete, No. 3 Pablo Olivarez II, No. 4 Ralph Barte and No. 5 Juan Felipe Mayor in the next round.

Meanwhile, boys' 21-under No. 2 Michael Tenoria downed Francis Venzon, 6-1, 6-3, to advance in the quarterfinals against John Rey Moreno, a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Generoso Gutierrez while No. 4 Joseph Arcilla rallied past Yannick Guba, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, to advance against No. 6 Gino Bautista, who beat Jayson Astano, 6-3, 6-1.

Gaining quarterfinals berths in the boys' 16-under were No. 1 Janjie Soquino, No. 2 Arithmetico Lim, No. 3 Hamza Macapendeg, No. 4 Ralph Barte, No. 5 Kyle Dandan, No. 6 Raymond Villarete, No. 7 Perene Alina and unranked Chung Soo Han.

In the girls' 18-under class, Bukidnon's Ara Micayabas ousted No. 3 Ivy de Castro, 6-2, 7-5, to join No. 1 Berry Sepulveda, No. 2 Charise Godoy, No. 4 Bien Zoleta, Ana Ysabel Soriano, Ma. Angelica Ngo, Ana Karissa Laplap and Kristel Samala in the quarterfinals.

Filipino fencer world-class

FOR the first time ever, a Filipino has gained a world ranking in the sport of fencing. National champion Avelino Victorino finished among the top epee fencers in the world by placing eighth overall in the recent 2002 Taiwan Men's Epee Grand Prix held in Taipei. Victorino upset top-seeded American Eric Hanse, 15-14, and then demolished Singaporean Nicholas Fang, 15-10 to qualify for the fourth round featuring the top 16 fencers. He then continued his spirited quest for glory by beating Japanese Oku Yu, 15-12, to advance to the final eight.

Mandaluyong derby tonight

WHO will be this year's 2002 LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year?

The answer will be known tonight when the "3rd CockfightingConference LGBA 7-Cock Championship Derby" gets underway at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Thunderbird Enertone, Pit Fighter Feeds, Premium Agrovet and Excellence Gamefowl Supply.

"It's definitely championship or bust for the top contenders. There is no more tomorrow, so aficionados can expect only the best encounters tonight," LGBA president Boy Diaz explained.

The top contenders are former Rep. Amado Bagatsing (Air Gladiator, 10.5 points), Dong Chung and William Go (5th of May Gold Cup, 10), Ram Lopez and Tony Litonjua (Altuz Starwars, 9.5), well-known hotelier Riboy Enriquez (Firebird, 9), OPMI president Vic Yu (Mandaluyong Coliseum, 9), Tony Galang/W. Go (Argga Gold Cup Two, 9), engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum, 9), Boy Diaz and Sandy Javier (RMR Arnis Master EDL I, 9), Alex Tang (Guts and Glory, 8), Bibot Echauz (Ente Farm II, 8) and lawyers Virgilio Manguera, Mario Antonio and Justice Magdangal Elma (M2 Chito, 8). For other inquiries, call 535-2341, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Pasay cockfest tomorrow

BIGTIME cockers clash in another electrifying 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit tomorrow, Friday.

A cash prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in this one-day event to be hosted by pit manager Butchoy Olano and lawyer Onofre Abella, who is also known through his Agilawin entry.

Submission of entries will be tomorrow, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For other details, call 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

On June 7, a 4-cock derby will be held with partners Ansel Cordura and Dindo Bales as hosts.

Newspaper publisher Jake Macasaet is likewise hosting a 4-cock derby on June 14.

Meanwhile, the PCC management announced that reservation of cockhouses for the much-awaited 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby on July 18 and 20 are now being accepted.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

MMDA gains vast power

By Alcuin Papa

ABALOS

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority has been given the power to make major decisions in the development of the metropolis.

The added clout, which makes the MMDA the most powerful agency in Metro Manila, was acquired when the Metro Manila Mayors Council, the policy-making assembly of

MMDA/A24

Bayan launches anti-PPA protest /A24

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE THU. MAY 30

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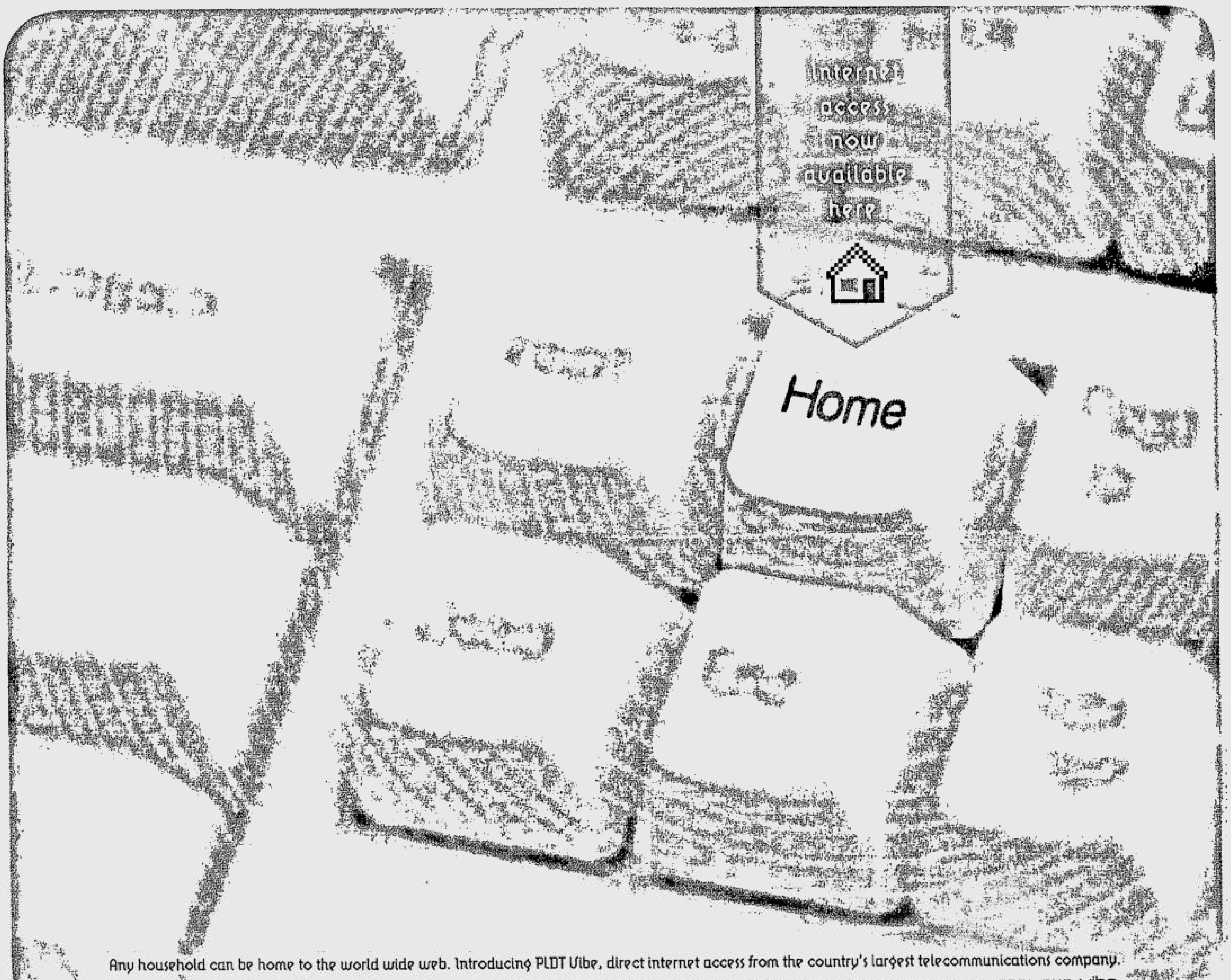
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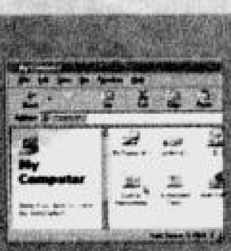
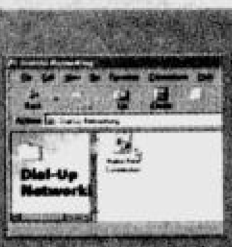
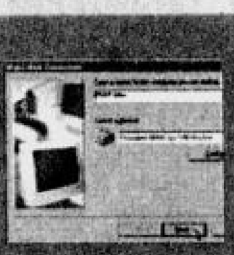
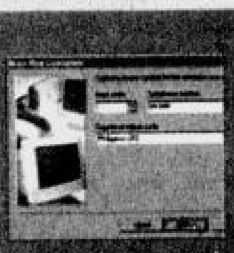
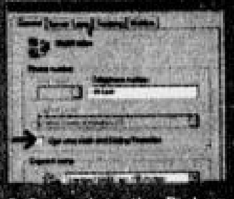
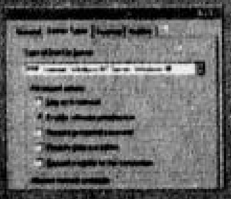

1. Create a PLDT Vibe dialer by double clicking "My Computer" on your PC Desktop. Then double click the "Dial-up Networking" folder.

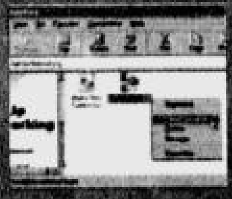

2. Double-click "Make New Connection".

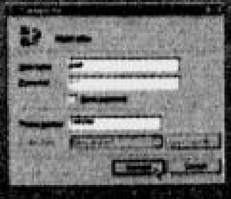

3. Type "PLDT Vibe" on space provided. Select the right modem you are using and click "Next".


4. Leave the area code blank, type in 101300 in Telephone Number field and select Philippines as the country or region code. Then click "Next", then "Finish".


5. Go back to the Dial-up Networking folder and right click on PLDT Vibe Dialer and select "Properties". Uncheck the "Use Area Code and Dialing Properties" check box.


6. Select the "Server Types" tab. Make sure that the "Type of Dial-up Server" uses PPP and that the only items that are checked are "Enable Software Compression" and "TCP/IP". Click "OK".


7. Right click on the PLDT Vibe dialer again and select "Create Shortcut". When asked, click "Yes" to create the shortcut on your Desktop.


8. To start surfing, double-click on the "shortcut to PLDT Vibe" dialer icon on your Desktop. Then enter "pldt" on the username field and "vibe" on the password field on the dialer then click on the "connect" button.

As soon as you are connected to PLDT Vibe, just click on your browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator) to start surfing.

To access PLDT Vibe, all you need are:
- PC OR LAPTOP
- Modem (56K modem is recommended)
- Postpaid PLDT residential phone

For more information, call 171 (for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao), or 1-800-1-888-9090 (for North and South Luzon).

Bayan launches anti-PPA protest

DENNIS SABANGAN

A MONSTROUS effigy of the Manila Electric Company receives a hefty pummeling during the launching of the Metro Manila People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rate or MPOWER.

By Tina Santos

THE PUBLIC outcry against the controversial Purchases Power Adjustment continues to rage.

Yesterday, the militant group Bayan-NCR launched the Metro Manila People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates or MPOWER.

MPOWER spokesperson Ron Hubbard said they aim to unite and empower people from all walks of life to be vocal and go up against the extremely high power rate charges brought about by the PPA.

"We want to stress three important points—the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, the Manila Electric Company's petition to increase its power rate and the Amendments of EPIRA. These are the main reasons we are burdened with high price of electrical expenses," Hubbard said.

"Hubbard added that EPIRA is the one mainly responsible for the additional burden being passed by Meralco to the consumers.

"MPOWER denounces Meralco's petition to the Energy Regulatory Commission to conceal the PPA on our current charges, aside from the universal charges on our electric bills," Hubbard said.

"Consumers now have to pay an additional P3.40 for every 1 kilowatt since Meralco likewise petitioned for the 116-percent increase on PPA," he added.

Regarding the Amendment of the EPIRA, Hubbard stressed that Meralco only wants to legitimize its previous charges aside from the universal charges, which include additional items that will further increase the consumers' electric expenses.

Hubbard said they will continue to stage protests calling for the immediate scrapping of PPA and to oppose warrantless electricity rates.

As a sign of higher form of protest, Hubbard said the group plans to padlock a Meralco Bayad Center branch on June 3.

He said they will also stage an NCR-wide mobilization at Mendiola calling for the ouster of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

SC decision: Neither here nor there

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SUPREME Court wanted to play safe and came up with a *bakla* decision on the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case. It's neither here nor there. If it were a person, it would be difficult to determine its sex, whether it's man or woman, boy or girl.

The decision was a letdown to most citizens who believe that the high court's decision should have been unequivocal either way—dismissal or continuance of the trial.

Now, the citizenry is again held in suspense as in a high-drama movie, with the high tribunal acting as director or producer. In the world of the celluloid, most directors and producers are homosexuals.

* * *

In the half-hearted decision, the Supreme Court voted 13-0 to throw back the case to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, not to start the trial but to determine whether the case should be reopened.

The lower court was given the task to ascertain whether the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of a criminal case had actually elapsed when the Department of Justice revived the multiple murder case in April 2001.

The lower court had provisionally dismissed the case after some vital witnesses backed out. But the government revived it after two years when new witnesses came out.

In other words, the honorable members of the Supreme Court are washing their hands of the case. The court wanted to escape the people's judgment on them.

There were speculations that money changed hands for a ruling favorable to the respondents in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

* * *

The high court has also restrained the lower court from issuing a warrant of arrest against the respondents, the most prominent of whom is Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police and President Erap's No. 1 henchman.

Senator Lacson and his co-accused are free to roam around while the lower court ascertains whether they should be tried for murder.

* * *

Sen. Robert Barbers, with whom Lacson had traded barbs, said: "We now have to respect (the) decision." Barbers and Lacson made up after the senator from Cavite went to the office of the senator from Surigao del Norte and apologized.

Senator barbers, how can you respect a *bakla* decision?

Alam kong wala ka ring respeto sa bakla.

* * *

The Supreme Court decision has focused on the technical aspect of the case—whether to revive it after the lapse of the two-year prescriptive period; rather than on the real issue—whether the 11 suspected bank robbers were killed in captivity, and therefore, murdered.

The citizenry should ask the lower court to which the case was tossed back to focus on the crime itself and not on mere technicality.

* * *

As Arno Sanidad, lawyer of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), who has been a private prosecutor on the multiple murder case since 1996, put it: "The issue here is the murder of the 11 gang members and who were responsible for it."

"And ultimately," Sanidad continued, "if it is on a technicality, do we want murderers in high office?"

Yes, do you want a murderer for a possible presidential candidate?

* * *

Representative Rolex Sulpico and Jacinto Paras have won the admiration of millions of consumers for proposing the government takeover of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco).

Meralco, owned by the powerful Lopez family, was found to have overcharged its customers by P12.3 billion in purchased power adjustment charges without authority from the Energy Regulatory Board. That's why the two congressmen are asking that the government sequester the power firm.

But will their colleagues listen to Sulpico and Paras? The Lopezes are powerful because they own ABS-CBN, the biggest radio-TV network. No politician in his right mind would want to tangle with a family that can make or break political careers.

* * *

Last Thursday, May 23, this corner featured two policemen in full uniform drinking cheap Spanish brandy while guarding their ward, a former Cotabato mayor, inside the Pagasa Bar at the Apo View Hotel in Davao City, recently.

The two cops, who are not members of the Davao City police force, would have brought with them their M-16 Armalites inside the bar but changed their minds when they saw the stares from guests at the lobby.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has reacted strongly to that item.

He has directed that henceforth, no policeman assigned outside Davao City will be allowed to display his high-powered firearm in public. Even if the cop is in uniform and happens to be guarding VIPs with names like Abdul Koto or Mohammad Langaw.

Duterte said that "outsider" policemen who would violate his gun ban directive would have to reckon with him.

Most policemen who tote and display their high-caliber guns in Davao City are out-of-town cops. Most of them come from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Duterte's directive will now make them toe the line.

NBI hit for 'mauling' wrong guy in UPLB slay

AN OFFICIAL of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) yesterday hit the National Bureau of Investigation for allegedly mauling a student it had mistaken as a suspect in the killing of a heart specialist.

Candida Adalla, Office of Student Affairs (OSA) dean, accused the NBI of treating the suspected student as though he was a convicted criminal.

"They should have stuck to humane means in their investigation," Adalla told the INQUIRER.

Adalla denounced the NBI for "the manhandling (black and blue) of Mart Marfori, whom she said had been wrongly identified as one of the suspects.

Dr. Franklin Avellaneda was killed on May 11 at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

The NBI on Tuesday said it was hunting for three members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity suspected of killing Avellaneda, of St. Luke's Medical Center.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Kissinger Kraft, of Calauan, Laguna; Mark Alba, of San Pedro, Laguna; and Antonio Rivera Jr., of Putatan, Muntinlupa City. All are 20 years old, Wycoco said.

Investigators said Avellaneda and a friend, Edmundo Dayag, had quarreled with the three young men on May 11.

Avellaneda had fetched Kraft, Alba and Rivera for a meeting at the Apec Center at the UPLB compound, where they drank some bottles of beer, investigators said.

Dayag said he later saw Avellaneda pleading and Alba and Rivera twisting the doctor's arms and poking a knife at him.

Later, UP and Los Baños police found the doctor's body at the crime scene. Avellaneda had several stab and gunshot wounds, and was in handcuffs, investigators said.

In her condemnation of the NBI, Adalla said Marfori was forcibly picked up in his house, mauled and detained for 48 hours.

"I saw Mart personally, and he sustained bruises and contusions in his body although he was already out of danger," the UPLB official said.

"As OSA head I do not know of any indication that the three (Kissinger Kraft Brion, Mark Alba and Rolando Rivera, Jr.) would be capable of committing the crime they were accused of," Adalla added.

Adalla said the report on Wednesday misidentified Rolando Rivera Jr. as Antonio Rivera Jr.

She however admitted that Brion was already dismissed from the university, while Rivera Jr. had just graduated in April.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Truck owners threaten Muntinlupa-wide blockade

By Christian V. Esguerra

IMAGINE 5,000 trailer trucks blocking all entry and exit points in Muntinlupa.

This could be a cruel reality in the coming days if the Muntinlupa city government would not lift its ban on trucks.

The Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (CTAP) yesterday threatened to mobilize all of its 5,000 trailers to set up barricades all over Muntinlupa in defiance of the truck ban.

"They're not only killing us, they're also killing the economy," CTAP chair Isaac Esteleta said of city officials.

Last January, Muntinlupa started prohibiting trucks from using its thoroughfares between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily to decongest traffic especially at the busy Alabang interchange.

Esteleta said the ban was a "big blow to the economy" since it prevented truckers from transporting commodities such as electronics, papers, and perishable and export goods from southern Metro Manila.

"If they (city officials) wanted to implement a truck ban, they should have made alternative routes," Esteleta said. "Right now, we can't practically pass through Muntinlupa."

To help solve the worsening traffic problem in the city, Esteleta suggested that local officials implement a previous order banning trucks between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily.

The CTAP chair also projected a 30-to 40-percent drop in the number of vehicles using Muntinlupa's thoroughfares if trucks weighing below 20 tons would be allowed to use the Alabang viaduct.

He suggested that the Philippine National Construction Corp., which is operating the viaduct, issue passes to such trucks right at the entrance of the South Luzon Tollway.

Intel chief slain on his way home

THE CHIEF intelligence officer of the San Mateo, Rizal police force was only a few meters away from his house in Rodriguez town when he was gunned down on Tuesday.

SPO4 Manuel Alberto, chief investigator of San Mateo, was on his way home on board his car when three men shot him at close range.

Alberto suffered gunshot wounds in the nape and chest and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City, police said.

Investigation showed that the ambush occurred about 8 p.m. on A. Mabini Street, Gold River Ville Subdivision, Barangay Burgos.

SPO1 Joey Lagutan, Rodriguez police station desk officer, said the gunmen escaped on foot after the shooting.

Twelve empty bullet shells of a .45 pistol were found on the scene.

When asked if the New People's Army were behind the killing, Lagutan said there was no apparent reason for the rebel group's involvement.

Alberto's superior officer, Chief Insp. Rodino Elpa, said he could not think of any reason why someone would want Alberto dead. He said Alberto was not handling any controversial case.

PO2 Lope Macauba described Alberto as a low profile investigator and a good husband and good father to his four children.

Nelson Flores

Angeli Domini concert

THE MANDALUYONG'S Children Chorus will present Angeli Domini, the opening concert of its 2002 series, on Sunday, 6 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Tower I De la Costa Street, Makati City.

Original compositions in contemporary music of budding Filipino artists will be premiered by the young Mandaluyong natives who are the Philippine representatives to the 2nd Choir Olympics in Busan, Korea in October. They will compete in the Children's Choir and Musica Contemporanea categories.

The MCC, founded and directed by Sebastian L. Trinidad, is a member of MADZ et al, a network of choirs handled by members and alumni of the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

MMDA gains vast . . .

From page A23

heads of local government units in Metro Manila, approved Resolution No. 01-22.

The resolution converts MMDA, in conjunction with the MMC, into a Regional Development Council.

With its new powers, the MMDA will function as an RDC for the whole of the National Capital Region and will coordinate among local government units the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of medium and long-term regional development plans, investment programs, regional physical framework plans and special development plans.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the new functions will also integrate already approved development plans of the 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila, line agencies, state universities and colleges, government-owned and controlled corporations and special development authorities into a single regional development plan.

As an RDC, the MMDA will also have the power to review, prioritize and endorse to the national government the annual and multi-year sectoral investment programs of the region for funding and implementation.

The MMC had said the resolution is in keeping with Executive Order 325 of Malacañang that mandates the reorganization of RDCs and other similar bodies to include local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices and representatives from the private sector and non-government organizations.

The resolution has been endorsed for ratification by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and is expected to be signed by the Chief Executive to make the MMDA more effective in taking a lead role in Metro Manila's development.

DENNIS SABANGAN

SWEET TASTE OF FREEDOM

Members of Fr. Robert Reyes' flock raised and paid the P10,000-bail, freeing the running priest to do his thing. Reyes, shown here about to have a meal with his supporters, turned himself in to Central Police District officials on Monday when he heard that he would be served an arrest warrant for a million-peso libel suit filed against him by Cagayan Rep. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Ang See becomes Manila's top cop-buster

Manila Mayor Atienza has appointed Ang See as head of the People's Law Enforcement board

By Jerome Aning

ANTI-CRIME crusader Teresita Ang-See has been appointed chief of the Manila city body that goes after erring policemen.

Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday announced that See will be the new executive director of the People's Law Enforcement Board.

She will replace lawyer Pete Bautista, who will be assigned to the Office of the Mayor.

"Ms See has accepted our challenge to help us go after abusive policemen," Atienza said in a statement. "We are certain that this move will result in a more efficient PLEB, one that would push for genuine reforms in our law enforcement system."

See is the spokesperson of the Citizens Action Against Crime. She also chairs the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Democracy.

Atienza said he is giving Ang See a free hand in reorganizing the PLEB "to make it more efficient and proactive" in carrying out its primary duty of protecting the public against abusive and erring policemen.

"We have made a commitment to support any move that she would undertake to make the PLEB more effective," he added.

The mayor noted that an effective PLEB is necessary not just to protect citizens against abusive lawmen, but also to raise public confidence in the city's police force.

"Even if only one percent of the whole police force is rotten, their actions affect the rest of the organization, and this is unfair to policemen who have been diligently performing their duties," the mayor said.

See is a former member of the Presidential Commission Against Organized Crime during the Estrada administration.

She criticized President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza as national police chief.

See is an influential member of the country's ethnic Chinese community. She is the executive trustee of the Kaisa Heritage Foundation and has authored books on the role of the Chinese in Philippine history.

Trikes make the biggest stink–DENR

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE NOISY neighborhood tricycle is also the most pollutive vehicle around.

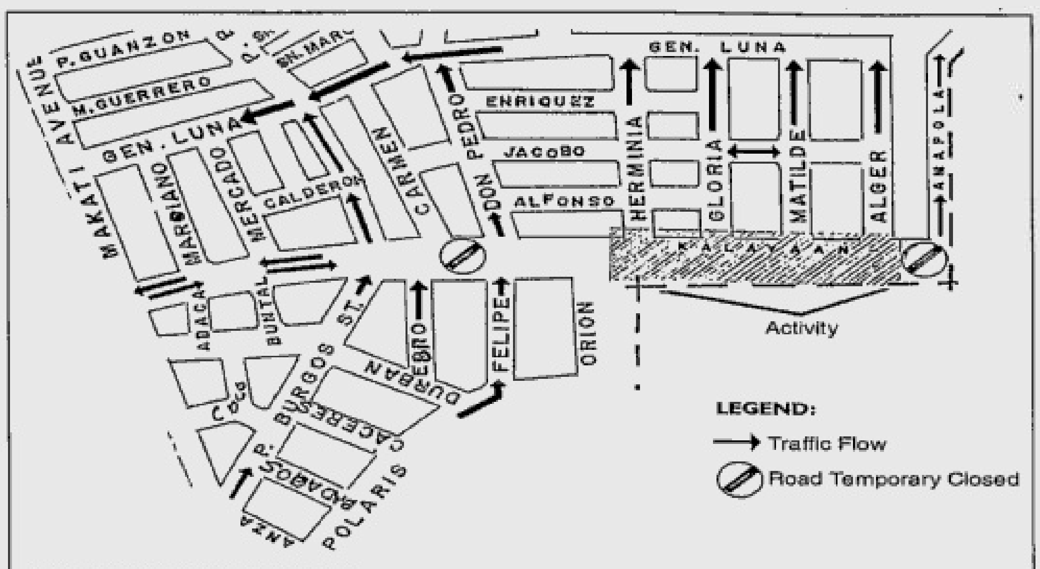
This was the assessment of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Monday when it pushed for amendments to standards on allowable emission of tricycles in Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act.

The DENR said an estimated 900,000 passenger tricycle units in the country operate on two-stroke engines, emitting smoke that are more dangerous than those of other vehicles.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said while the tricycle's two-stroke engine has an uncomplicated design and has fewer parts to maintain, making it less expensive, it is still considered highly pollutive.

"Since the exhaust is forced out from the combustion chamber by the inflow of the air-fuel mixture to the motion of the piston, the two-stroke engine is more likely to emit unburned gases," Alvarez said.

Alvarez suggested the use of four-stroke engines in place of the two-stroke engines popular among tricycle drivers. The newer four-stroke engine has a higher combustion temperature and emits only well burned gases.



MAKATI STREET PARTY

The stretch of Kalayaan Avenue from Makati Avenue to Rockwell Drive will be closed to vehicular traffic today, starting 5 p.m., to give way to a street party in celebration of Makati's 332nd foundation day. Kalayaan will be turned into a huge dance floor, as music bands like Ariba and Brownman Revival kick off Makati's three-night street party. Guide above shows the portion of the avenue that will be closed to traffic and alternative routes motorists can take (see related story on Entertainment page A30).

PNP: Half of Edsa buses run without franchise

By Norman Bordadora

MORE than half of the buses that ply Edsa, from the Monumento area to Roxas Boulevard, have no business operating on probably the most lucrative public transport route in the whole metropolis.

That is because the buses are operating without a franchise, according to Supt. Mario Avelino, head of Metro Manila's Traffic Management Group.

Quoting police statistics, Avelino on Monday said that out of the estimated 5,000 buses on Edsa, some 3,000 have no existing franchise with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

The police official said at the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel that the impounding areas of the Metro Manila Development Authority are already congested with such "colorum" vehicles.

MMDA chairperson Benjamin Abalos admitted there was not much his agency could do against colorum buses since impounding area personnel could not detain the buses after the operators pay the P6,000 fine.

"After they pay the fine, the buses almost always find their way back to the roads," Abalos said.

Militants appeal: End ordeal of Mamburao 6

By Tina Santos

THREE-YEAR-OLD Eduardo Hermoso Jr. may not understand what is happening to his father. But two things are certain: The boy longs for his father and his future remains bleak without him.

His father, Eduardo Sr., is one of six peasant leaders accused of killing Paul and Michael Quintos, sons of former Rep. Ricardo Quintos Jr.

"We appeal for the release of my husband Eduardo Hermoso, and the five other accused," said Tessie Hermoso in Filipino. "I want to give my son a better future, and to be able to properly raise my kid, I need the help of my husband. We depend on him for survival. Please have mercy."

Eduardo Hermoso, along with Manolito Matricio, Ruben Balaguer, Gelito Bautista, Mario Tobias and Jose Ungsod—known as the Mamburao 6—has already spent four years in jail for the murder of the Quintos brothers. Although the New People's Army took responsibility for the 1997 killings, it is the six farmers who are taking the punishment.

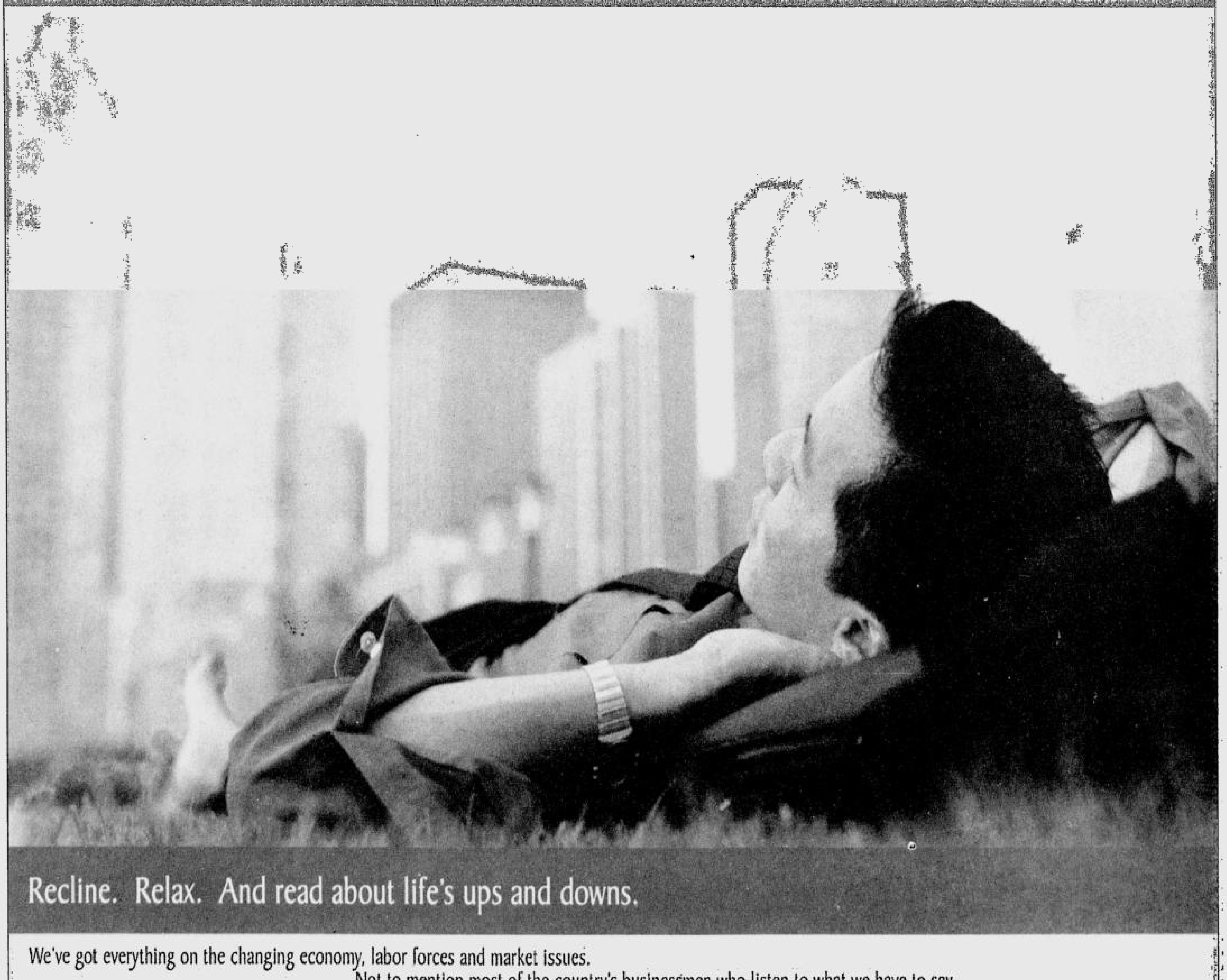
This has prompted the farmers' families, as well as members of the Church and militant groups, to hold a mass outside the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 in an appeal to Judge Theresa Yadao to implement the Aug. 28, 2001 Memorandum of Recommendation for Release of the Mamburao 6.

Sharon Duremdes, secretary general of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, said they are fighting for the immediate release of the Mamburao 6.

"These people remain in jail despite necessary documents stating that they should be freed because they're innocent," Duremdes said. "We are aware that President Macapagal Arroyo ... has already signed the documents recommending their release, but until now, no justice has been done."

Duremdes said the Mamburao 6 were implicated in the killings because they wanted to push for land reform to be implemented on the 604-hectare Golden Country Farms Inc., which the Quintos own.

"The Mamburao 6, who may be facing a death penalty, just asserted their right to a share of the land they faithfully tilled, but instead they found themselves behind bars," Duremdes said.



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'PANIC ROOM'

Not knowing when the bomb will go off

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

THE Master of Suspense, Alfred Hitchchock, once explained the difference between surprise and suspense: When a bomb under a table goes off, that's surprise. When we know the bomb is under the table but not when it will go off, that's suspense.

Today we find, unfortunately too often, that films under the suspense-thriller genre have a lot of surprises in them but not much suspense. Slasher films, for instance, offer plenty of cheap thrills using the tired method of having a "boo!" moment lurking in a scene that would otherwise be pointless had it not been designed specifically to stun the audience into submission.

The surprise may work, but not for long. Whatever fear it generates quickly dissolves into ennui, and the audience waits for the next fix.

These so-called thrillers give as much satisfaction as intercourse without foreplay, which to some people is enough. Other people, however, prefer the whole package: suspense-thrillers that can truly live up to the genre by lending terror not only to individual scenes but to the entire film itself.

"Panic Room" is a film for those people. Its serenely bizarre opening credits inject a sense of uneasiness right from the start. The foreboding quickly crescendoes into real fear and climaxes into, well, panic.

Ourselves included

Director David Fincher, who cut his teeth directing Madonna's music videos and quickly earned artistic approval in the film industry for his atmospheric adroitness in "Seven" and "Fight Club," knows his audience well.

Just as a good public speaker talks as if he's addressing just one person, Fincher makes you feel that the film is made specifically for you—and with you as part of the action. Working on a smartly written script (by David Koepp who also wrote "Mission Impossible" and "Carlito's Way") that reveals its twists and secrets at just the right time, Fincher successfully involves us in an atmosphere of dread and desperation where the protagonists, including us, are asked, "What are you going to do now?"

Some of the best suspense films have the simplest plots. Hitchcock's "Rear Window" has James Stewart playing a wheelchair-bound "peeping-tom" photographer who suspects that one of the people he frequently spies on is a murderer. Jonathan Demme's "Silence of the Lambs" has a beauty-and-the-beast-like romance-thriller going between Hannibal the Cannibal and FBI agent Clarice Starling.

Worst first night

"Panic Room" can't get any more basic. Three thieves lay siege to a house on a rainy night, and the innocents inside—a divorced mother (Jodie Foster) and her daughter (Kristen Stewart) who just moved in—do all they can to thwart them.

It's the worst first night ever in any house. The film capitalizes on a fear we have all felt at one time and which, in a world of rising criminality, we still often do. It's the fear that rouses us from sleep in the dead of the night to double-check door locks and listen for strange noises.

All those who have seen the film's trailer know by now that the mother, Meg, and her daughter Sarah have two things going for them: First, the house that they moved into is huge. It's the size of a mini-mall, just perfect when you're playing a brutal game of cat and mouse with invading thieves.

Secondly, there's of course the panic room, lined with three inches of steel on every side, rigged with TV monitors linked to surveillance cameras, supplied with food, water, phone and ventilation. Meg and Sarah take refuge in the seemingly impenetrable sanctuary.

But this is not "Home Alone." The thieves are smart; well, at least one of them is. The other two have other dastardly talents. What they want is inside the panic room itself, and they have to think of ingenious ways of penetrating it.

Bring it on

It's nice to see Foster, a two-time Oscar-winner, in a role with conflicting hues of vulnerability and fortitude, something she showed through Clarice Starling in "Silence of the Lambs." This is her first lead role since 1999's "Anna and the King," and though I respect her decision to cut down on film work to spend time with her kids (one film every two years), I just can't help but miss a quality performer like her.

Foster, who along with Stewart, are our emotional anchors in the film, are able to create characters we truly care about. They are also people we want to be when faced with life-threatening situations: ingenious even when frozen with fear.

In one scene, Foster lets out a memorable scream of helplessness. Then there's unnerving silence. If you look in her eyes during this brief ensuing moment, I swear you could almost see a growing sense of resolve, as if she's telling the bad guys: "You want a battle? Bring it on."

It's also nice to see Forest Whitaker in a good film after the atrocious "Battlefield Earth." He, Jared Leto and actor/singer Dwight Yoakam play the thieves who have more going for them in the story than just plain thuggery. Whitaker carries a key subplot of the film to a point where we invest as much emotion in him as we do in the mother and daughter.

I won't say anymore of the plot lest I be a spoiler to those who have not seen the film. That's the last thing you'd want to do when you have a Grade-A suspense-thriller: Tell people when the bomb under the table will go off.

CAT AND MOUSE. Jodie Foster and Kristen Stewart as the "mice."

RANDY Santiago joins Retrospect in a two-night concert at the Music Museum.

RJ Jacinto rocks Edsa Shangri-La Lobby on Friday nights.

Randy joins Retrospect in two-night concert

SHOWS

RETRO icon Retrospect, the Fab Four composed of Ogie, Goldie, Em-J and J. Martin, holds a two-night show, "The Luv Bug Concert," May 31 and June 1, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum.

The show is meant to boost the group's latest album, "The Luv Bug Retrospect," which has spawned the current radio favorite, "Bakit Nga Ba?," the album's carrier song.

Special guest in the concert is Randy Santiago, who is expected to deliver a livewire performance that has made him one of the most bankable live artists in the local music scene.

For tickets, call 721-6726 or 721-0635.

Hard Rock

SONG GODDESS Lani Misalucha closes the two-month summer extravaganza of Hard Rock Café with a special show tonight, co-presented by 90.7 Love Radio.

The party at Hard Rock on regular night continues with Big on Mondays, Rage on Tuesdays, Route 70 back to back with First Circle on Wednesdays, Prime Council and Pido With Take One on Thursdays, Soulid and Hyperbeat (June 7 and 14) and Origin and Hyperbeat on Fridays, South Border on Saturdays and Hyperbeat on Sundays.

Show time on regular nights start 10:30 p.m. on Sundays, 8:30 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays and 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

For reservations, call 893-4661 to 63.

Shiraz

JOHNNIE Walker presents Four Fourths Live, the fast-rising acoustic band which spices up Wednesday nights at Shiraz.

The band entertains the crowd with their unique pop-jazz repertoire that combines today's hits with yesterday classics.

Friday nights are ladies nights at Shiraz where ladies get a 20-percent discount on Martini drinks from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Groove till dawn every Saturday as Shiraz takes on the party tune with alternating DJs Manolet Dario, David Jacob, Joseph Alturas and Ayee Taupa.

Shiraz is at the ground floor of Palisades Bldg., 107 Perea st., Legaspi Village, Makati. For reservations, call 892-0758.

Shangri-La Lobby

RELIVE the heyday of the '60s and kick back to today's livewire tempo as the father of retro music and the king of Philippine rock n' roll, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, sizzles with his new group every Friday night until November at Edsa Shangri-La's Lobby Lounge.

RJ and Friends treat the audience to a merry mix of young adult music, a combination of the most memorable laid-back and upbeat tunes cutting across generations.

Repertoire includes hits from Latin superstars Enrique Iglesias and Ricky Martin, Eric Clapton, Earl Klug, Bee Gees, Beatles, Beach Boys and disco music from the '70s and '80s.

For reservations, call 633-8888, local 2738 or 2739.

New York gig

RICHARD Merk is set to perform in a dinner concert, "An Intimate Night With Richard Merk," June 13 at Cucina Stagionale Restaurant Piano Bar, 289 Bleecker Street, New York City.

Richard will have his mother, Queen of Jazz Annie Brazil as special guest.

Annie, who is based in New York and Jersey City, sings four times a week at New York's Greenwich Village.

Richard will be joined by Dr. Dwight Dickerson on piano, Paul Cavaciuti on drums and Peter Matthews on bass.

Richard recently opened businessman Tonyboy Cojuangco's Dream Bar at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Grand launch

THRONGS of certified partyphiles gathered at the newest dining haven at the corner of Tomas Morato and Roces Avenue in Quezon City, to celebrate the recent grand opening of Pacific Wharf.

ANDREW E. AT VIRGIN CAFÉ
On Saturday, June 1, rapper-comedian Andrew E. performs his latest hits like "Banyo Queen," "Porno Daw" and "L na L" at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Guests were treated to the live performance of Toy Symphony, the Saison sibling group which dished out a mix of upbeat R&B, slow jazz and chill out music.

Pacific Wharf is also located at the 3 rd Level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati City.

For reservations, call 926-3572 or 898-0970.

'Crossover Presents'

IN HER forthcoming show, "Crossover Presents Jaya," June 6 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental, Jay will dish out contemporary jazz and rhythm and blues.

Her lineup includes such tunes as "Got To Get You Into My Life," "I'm Coming Back Again" and "Constantly," plus medleys of music legends like Natalie Cole.

Joining Jaya are comedienne Nanette Inventor, with the country's top session musicians—Mel Villena on sax, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Roy Mercado on drums and Gerard Salonga as musical director.

The Opera quartet also guests. Instrumental group Da Capo starts off the show, with favorite Crossover classics at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at Captain's Bar. Call 750-8888 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

FOUR FOURTHS. Spices up Wednesday nights at Shiraz.

Martin earns MTV 2002 nomination

MARTIN Nievera earns a nomination in this year's MTV Awards for his performance in the music video of his single, "Imagine Me Without You," culled from his platinum album "More Souvenirs," under PolyEast Records of MCA Universal, Inc.

Martin is nominated in the best male performance category.

The music video captured the attention of the entertainment industry for its exciting concept that projected Martin Nievera in a matured role. He is seen half-naked in an intimate scene with his love interest in the music video, megged by "SOP" director Louie Ignacio.

"This is my most memorable video work because I have not done anything like it before," Martin says.

"Imagine Without You" was originally recorded in English and Spanish by Latin superstar Luis Fonsi. The song was penned by famed Latin composer Rudy Perez who wrote for such global hit artists as Christina Aguilera, Jose Feliciano and many other recording stars in the international circuit.

The ditty is originally a romantic poem titled "Imaginame Sin Ti."

The song was a big hit in US, Puerto Rico and Latin America.

Also nominated in this year's MTV Awards derby is another PolyEast/MCA Universal rock band Monsterbot for best performance by a new group for the music video "Explosive."

The song is they key track in Monsterbot's debut album, "Destroy, Destroy." The video is directed by Quark Henares.

NIEVERA

'High on E' at Arkdia

SPEND payday weekend at Arkdia Entertainment Venue for another taste of "High on E!" party, with bands Escape and Rubix Cube.

Get a chance to win in raffle draws and enjoy various perks and freebies.

Hot, sexy bods will light up Arkdia's floor as a preview to the latest gimmick, "e!Zone." Watch four lovely women do daring dance routines onstage and on the dance floor. "e!Zone" will be a regular fare for Arkdia habitues starting June.

Tickets to "High on E!" is at P100. For inquiries and reservations, call 400-9974.

Spirits Malate opens

SPIRITS Coyote Bar, the newest party place in Malate, will open its doors on June 11.

Located at an old house on the corner of J. Bocobo and Nakpil Streets in Malate, Coyote Bar is a way of bringing the renowned legacy of the Spirits party place in Baguio to Manila's entertainment and nightlife district.

Theme parties, fashion shows, entertainment, company promos and product launches will establish Spirits Malate at the place to be in Manila to attract the after-office crowd and young professionals.

Shows . . .

From page A30

Park and Garden starting 6 p.m.

At the same time, "Gimik sa Jupiter" is another street party along Jupiter Street, which will feature Toy Symphony, Brownbeat All-Star, Sabor Latino, Parliament Syndicate and True Faith.

Another show is set at 5 p.m. at the Glorietta Activity Area, starring Ogie Alcasid and Tribe of Levi.

The May 31 festivities will be capped by a grand fireworks display at the Ayala Center at 10 p.m.

On June 1, Makati residents will be treated to a live, remote telecast of GMA 7's popular noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," at the Makati City Hall Quadrangle.

At 6:30 p.m. there will simultaneous open-air shows — featuring Riveramaya at the Ampitheater of the Makati Park Garden; and Asin, Color It Red, The Dawn and Barbie's Cradle at the Pamantasan ng Makati Grounds.

Both shows will be capped by a fireworks display at the city park.

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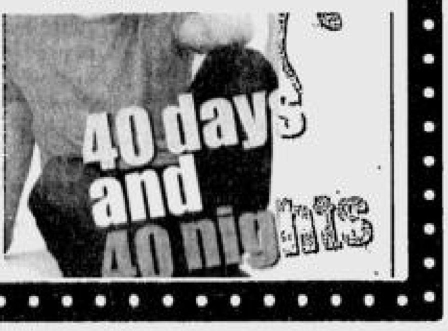

MOVIEWORLD
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@ Robinsons Malls

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1 THX	STAR WARS 2
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	PANIC ROOM
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	IN THE BEDROOM
8	SPIDER-MAN
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	BENEATH LOCHNESS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	PANIC ROOM
7	RESIDENT EVIL

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	PANIC ROOM
5	SPIDER-MAN
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	AKALA MO
4	SPIDER-MAN
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	JIHAD WARRIOR
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

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1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

Bacolod
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1	STAR WARS 2
2	SHOWTIME
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	K-PAX
5	I AM SAM
6	AKALA MO

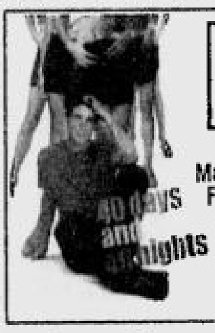
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	STAR WARS 2
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	I AM SAM
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5	DEEP END
6	SPIDER MAN

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.



Late Night Screening
on
May 31- June 1, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie ,536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Mila Jovovich stars in new action thriller

THE VERY popular "Resident Evil" video game series, which recently spawned a fifth game and boasts sales of over $600 million, is now an action-thriller on the big screen.

Budgeted at $75 million, "Resident Evil" offers non-stop action, stunning visual effects and edge-of-your-seat suspense.

Aware of the games' loyal following and fans' rabid attention to detail, its director went about writing a script that treated the material seriously, while allowing himself some leeway by creating a genesis for the series.

The film starts with a saboteur unleashing a deadly virus in a top-secret lab located beneath the fictitious Racoon City. In order to stop the virus from spreading to the general populace, the Red Queen, the computer that runs the facility, kills everything that is infected.

Believing its computer has run amok, the Umbrella Corporation, an evil, faceless mega-conglomerate, sends in a heavily armed team of commandos to shut down the system.

What the commandoes don't know, however, is that the virus has the ability to reanimate the dead, and once back on their feet the only thing they want to do is feed on the living.

Led by Alice (Mila Jovovich), the team fights against seemingly insurmountable odds in an attempt to make it back to the surface. What awaits them down the darkened corridors are zombies, dogs stripped of their flesh and the Licker, a wall-crawling monstrosity that mutates every time it eats.

Alice's main support comes from Rain (Michelle Rodriguez), who looks right at home with the undead given she only has one emotion—anger.

In contrast, while Jovovich's dialogue is video game thin, she looks remarkably at ease in this action-thriller, a throwback to her "Fifth Element" days which, coincidentally, involves an almost identical semi-nude scene.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	OCEAN 11 / ALI
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
C	PAGSALUHAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS...
CINEMA-14	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-15	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-2	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

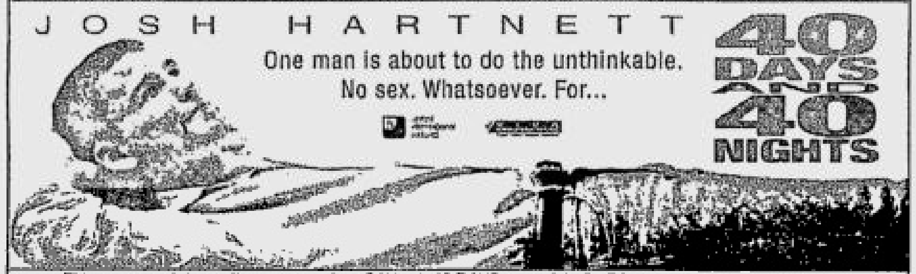
the all-digital-sound

AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


JOSH HARTNETT
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A fresh look at favorite musicals.

Greenbelt Reprise, a collection of well-loved
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Excerpts from Broadway hits with Michael Williams and Cathy Azanza.

Thursday, May 30, 2002, 7PM at the Greenbelt 1 Lobby.

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For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 PANIC ROOM	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2	STARWARS: EPISODE 2 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:20	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 PANIC ROOM 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30	3 PANIC ROOM	3 JIHAD WARRIOR	3 PANIC ROOM
4 JIHAD WARRIOR	4 IN THE BEDROOM	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM MAY 31 & JUNE 1	4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	4 DEATH SMOOCHY
	5 SPIDER-MAN		5 RESIDENT EVIL	5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
	6 RESIDENT EVIL			
	7 JIHAD WARRIOR			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com.

The Ayala Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

raise your hand if you want low prices.
The Ayala Malls Back-to-School Sale

Makati
May 27 to 30
Back-to-School Fair
at the Glorietta Activity Center

Alabang
May 31, June 1 & 2 and June 14, 15 & 16
10-to-10 Town Sale

Back-to-School Fair
June 7, 8 & 9 at the Activity Center
June 14, 15 & 16 at the Cinema Lobby

Cebu
May 31, June 1 & 2
Mallwide Sale

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2 - 0172 & DTI-Cebu No. 203 Series of 2002

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See it first!

SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING

KEVIN COSTNER
DRAGONFLY

MTRCB RATING: PG13

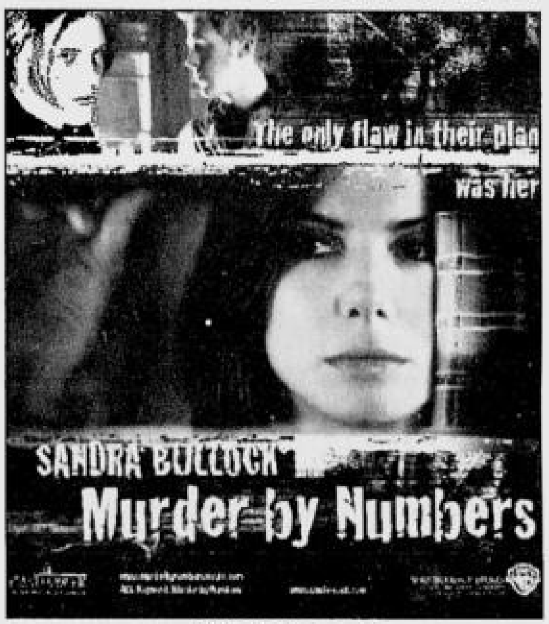
Invitational DWLS Screening on
May 30, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 4

Regular showing on June 5 at the SM CINEMAS.

See it first!

SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING

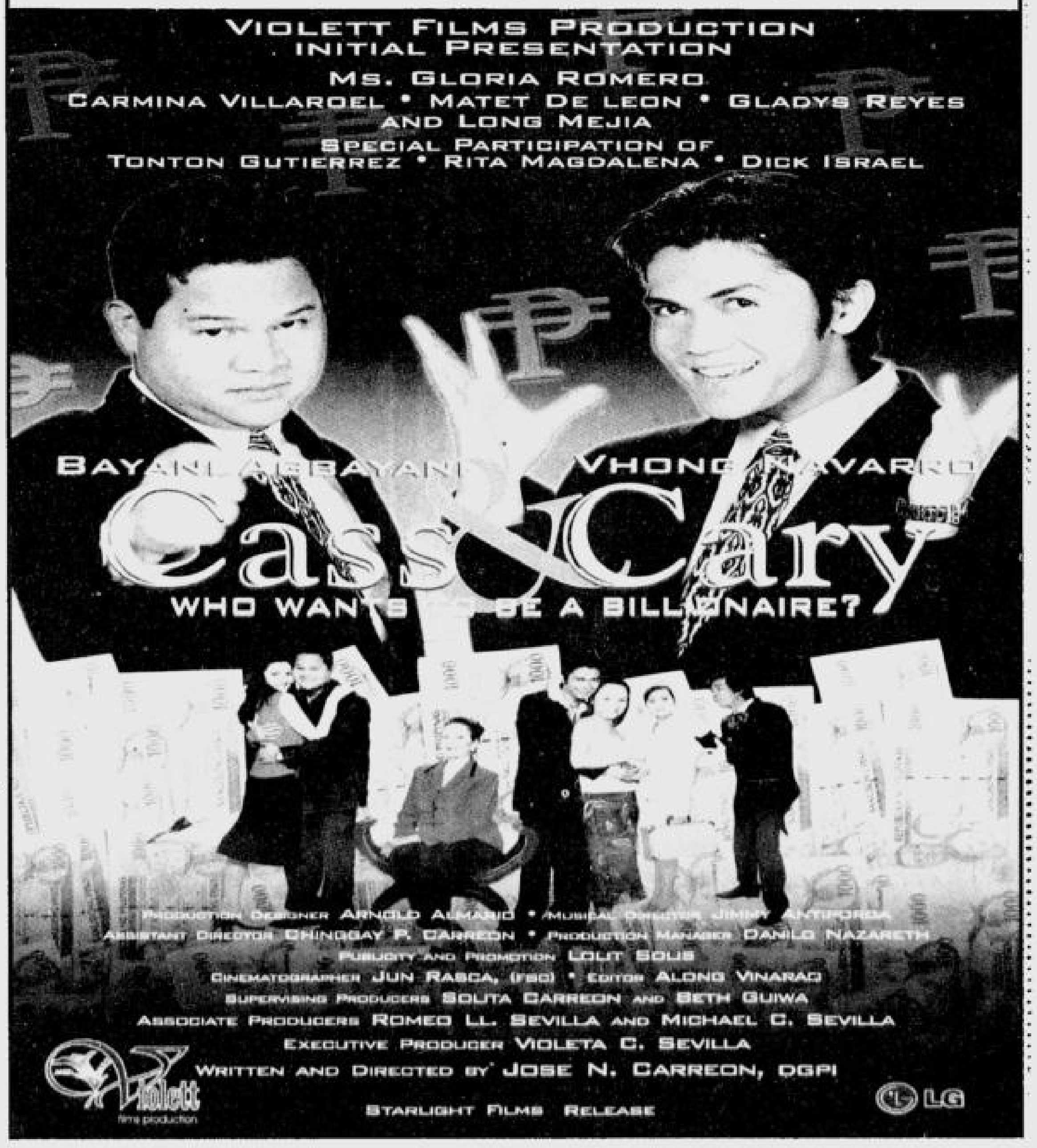


MTRCB RATING: R18

Invitational K-Lite Screening on
May 30, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1

Regular showing on June 5 at the SM CINEMAS.

OPENS JUNE 5 !



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MS. GLORIA ROMERO
CARMINA VILLAROEL • MATET DE LEON • GLADYS REYES
AND LONG MEJIA
SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
TONTON GUTIERREZ • RITA MAGDALENA • DICK ISRAEL

PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARNOLD ALMARIO • MUSICAL DIRECTOR JIMMY ANTIPORDA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHINGGAY P. CARREON • PRODUCTION MANAGER DANILO NAZARETH
PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION LOLIT SOLIS
CINEMATOGRAPHER JUN RASCA, (FSC) • EDITOR ALONG VINARAO
SUPERVISING PRODUCERS SOLITA CARREON AND BETH GUIWA
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ROMEO LL. SEVILLA AND MICHAEL C. SEVILLA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VIOLETA C. SEVILLA
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI
STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE

Violett films production

LG

New films and film formats

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT are stars **Hugh Grant**, **Matt Damon** and **Tom Hanks** up to these days? Grant is starring with **Toni Collette** and **Rachel Weisz** in "About a Boy," a film directed by **Paul** and **Chris Weisz**, based on **Nick Hornby**'s popular novel.

The film is a comedy-drama that casts Grant as a rich, irresponsible Londoner who, in his search for women, invents an imaginary son so he can attend single-parent meetings. How coldly predatory can you get?!

Well, he soon gets his comeuppance. As a result of one of his liaisons, he meets a 12-year-old boy with problems at school and a depressed mother (Collette) at home.

Gradually, they become friends, and the boy teaches Grant's character to finally grow up and fall in love, with no utilitarian strings attached.

The film is a star-making vehicle for young **Nicholas Hoult**, who plays the plum role of the 12-year-old boy, Marcus, who teaches Grant to finally be a man.

Meanwhile, Matt Damon stars in "The Bourne Identity" an update on the 1988 film starring **Richard Chamberlain** and **Jaclyn Smith**. In that production, an amnesiac spy runs all over Europe with a woman he's kidnapped, trying to prove to the assassins dogging his trail that he isn't the man he appears to be.

"The Bourne Identity" was the first in **Robert Ludlum**'s trio of international thrillers featuring master spy Jasòn Bourne. The novel now gets an edgy spin from director **Doug Liman**:

The new film's story starts with an amnesiac (Damon) being rescued at sea. Nearly dead, he has bullets in his back and a bank account number implanted in his hip.

Although completely without identity or background, he possesses an extraordinary array of skills in fighting, linguistics and self-defense that hint at a dangerous past.

He sets out on a desperate search to discover who he really is, and why so many people want him dead. He is assisted by the initially rebellious Marie, played by **Franka Potente**.

Other major players include **Chris Cooper**, **Clive Owen**, **Brian Cox** and **Patrick Crowley**.

Finally, the Oscar-winning "Apollo 13" is the first 35-man live-action film to be digitally remastered into the giant-screen Imax format. It will be screened in Imax theaters worldwide.

The film stars **Tom Hanks**, **Kevin Bacon**, **Bill Paxton**, **Gary Sinise** and **Ed Harris** and dramatizes the voyage of the spacecraft Apollo 13, whose voyage was one of the defining moments of the late 20th century.

The space shuttle's crew had nearly reached the moon when an explosion drained its oxygen, power and guidance systems. A daring rescue effort had to be mounted or the crewmen would be trapped in orbit.

Thus, the film is a gripping drama about the crewmen's courage, faith and ingenuity, and the determination of hundreds more who worked around the clock to bring them back.

The film is expected to acquire even greater force and scope with its new Imax format. Imax screens are eight stories high and more than a hundred feet wide, and the images projected on them are characterized by unequalled clarity and intensity.

Middle East news bureau

ABS-CBN Broadcasting has become the first Filipino news network to have its own news bureau in the Middle East. ABS-CBN already maintains five offices and distribution centers in the region, with over 30,000 subscribers of the network's international 24-hour cable service, The Filipino Channel. There are around 1.2 million Filipinos currently in the Middle East.

The news bureau will be headed by veteran broadcast journalist **Danny Buenafe**. Live feeds from the "eventful" region will be aired on Channel 2, the ABS-CBN News Channel and Studio 23.

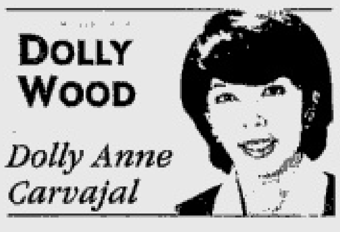
Other full-time news bureaus in different countries are currently being planned.

Feedback

FROM **Israel A. Andaya** of Makati City: "I notice that sexy shows or treatments are starting to come back on TV. Sitcoms are featuring more skimpily-clad characters and off-color jokes. Even noontime shows are going sexier, even if children are watching.

"This reminds me of the time when sexy shows used to abound on, before concerned viewers complained. Will it take another public outcry for TV channels to regulate themselves? The initiative should come from them, since they're supposed to be professional enough to know their responsibilities to the viewing public."

Bobby carries on with his and Rico Yan's business



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I ENJOYED pigging out on merienda with **Bobby Yan** last weekend.

Bobby made me sample all the yummy pica-pica of Fry This, the business venture his brother **Rico Yan** and Bobby were supposed to launch as soon as Rico returned from Dos Palmas after Holy Week. But fate took Rico away so Bobby has to carry on minus his *unico* bro.

Will tell you more about their "glorifried" snacks in my next column. For now, suffice it to say that I immensely enjoyed every bite. I suddenly developed amnesia as far as my diet was concerned.

Bobby told me that the glossy commemorative Rico Yan magazine is selling so briskly that they have to reprint more copies (P200 each). I'm more than delighted that the Yan family included my Dollywood column about Rico in the magazine, along with the articles of my colleagues **Leah Salterio** and **Ricky Lo**. Other features are articles written by Rico's mom, sister, ex-girlfriend, spiritual adviser and friends.

True Faith in MTV Awards

TRUE Faith band has been nominated for Best Group Video for "Sumasarap ang Gising" in the MTV Pilipinas 2002 awards which will be aired on June 6. It's a very Filipino video shot in Pila, Laguna, and directed by **Robert Quebral**. After the awards night, lead vocalist **Medwin Marfil** (my kindred spirit) will throw a party on at the roof deck of his condo.

In my book, True Faith will always be a winner. No need for trophies to prove that.

Medwin writes such soulful songs. Some bands just get up on stage and mouth lyrics composed by someone else for them.

True Faith sounds good whether you watch them live or you listen to their CD. Some singers are just a product of recording wizardry; better heard on CD than seen in a live performance. With True Faith, music is truer than true.

Charlene takes over

CHARLENE Gonzales will soon take over the hosting chores of **Tessie Tomas** in "Feel at Home" (Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Channel 2). Tessie is off to London with her hubby. The show will have a more "lifestylish" touch. As Mrs. Aga Muhlach and doting mother to their adorable twins, Charlene will definitely have a lot to share with viewers. She has hung her dancing shoes and opted for apron strings instead.

Dance party

THERE'S something for the younger set. French Spring is throwing a dance party, "Soiree DJ," at the NBC Tent on June 7 starting at 9 p.m. French DJ **Willy Richert** (host of Eklektic in Radio France Int'l.) will spin the latest French techno and house music all night long.

After dancing the night away, listen to the soothing music of **Alexandre Tharaud**, a laureate in international piano competitions in Europe. He will be accompanied by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra on Ravel's Concerto in G major (CCP Main Theater June 11 8 p.m.; Cebu, June 14; and Equitable PCIB, June 17).

No French affair would ever be complete without a catwalk. Be dazzled by the fashion show that will highlight the cultured pearls of Jewelmer. Choreographed to live jazz music, the show will feature clothes of some of the top local designers (Glorietta Activity Center, 7pm June 12).

At the end of Spring, everybody is invited to party all night at El Pueblo Ortigas Center and celebrate Fete de la Musique (June 22, 8 p.m.). Live music will be played by 30 of the country's best bands.

Laissez le bon temps et printemps rouler (Let the good times and "spring" roll)!

Chin-Chin goes French

I NEVER pass up any invitation from *mon amie* from the French Embassy, **Martin Macalintal**, so I made sure I didn't miss the French Spring Festival launch. Being around him and some French diplomats makes me yearn to time-travel back to my teenage days in Paris. When the show biz frenzy wears me out and I feel like being transported to another world, I text Martin so I can brush up on my French.

I was pleasantly surprised to see **Chin-Chin Gutierrez** at the "French Spring in Manila" press conference at the Manila Polo Club. It turns out that Chin-Chin is also fascinated by anything (and anyone?) French, just like *moi*.

She revealed, "I got a chance to attend the Cannes Film Festival a few years ago. My friend was part of the lighting crew. When I was there, it hit me that the Philippines' participation in the prestigious festival is not as aggressive as it can be. I met some French filmmakers and *voila*! Ideas for a French Filipino collaboration were overflowing!"

Chin-Chin heaved a sigh when I asked her why she is not into local movies lately. She and I share the same sentiments about the trend in Tagalog films. Once in a while, a well-crafted Pinoy movie makes a breakthrough, but sad to say, the momentum isn't sustained and we find ourselves stuck in the same old rehash of trash works all over again.

Chin-Chin mused: "French films are more mental while Filipino movies deal with feelings and actions. Imagine how powerful it will be if we combine both."

The exotic actress is now busy filming "Skin and Gold" (from Axantis Productions Manila and Les Films du Phoenix France/Canada). It's a modern treasure quest with good action thrills complete with Yakuzas, Igorot headhunters and a mix of atypical heroes and villains, all in a race to recover Yamashita's gold. Chin-Chin is paired with a (still secret) French actor. Ooh la la!

You go, girl! Knock them all out with your Pinay femme fatale charms!

Personal

MY never-ending thanks to **Warren Sy** of Arctic Vodka (my official drink!) for the generous supply of cold Arctic and warm friendship.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

MANDY Moore and Shane West in "A Walk to Remember."

Coming-of-age story about love and faith

EACH Spring in the little port town of Beaufort, North Carolina, when the wind smells of pine and salt and the sea, Landon Carter (Shane West) remembers his senior year at Beaufort High and Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore), the girl who changed his life.

Jamie was the last person Landon was likely to fall for. Serious and conservative, she was as far from cool as she could possibly be. The daughter of the town's Baptist minister, Jamie is not afraid of letting people know that her faith is the most important part of her life, even if it costs her some friends.

Landon hangs around with the in-crowd—an aimless, moody, reckless guy who breezes through school on looks and bravado. He has no plans, no future and no faith in himself.

One night, he and his buddies set up a prank that went terribly wrong and lands a kid in the hospital. As punishment, Landon must tutor a young student in a poor school and participate in the Drama Club's Spring play—two activities they hope will teach him some humility. They also happen to throw him into close contact with Jamie, so Landon is forced to ask her for help.

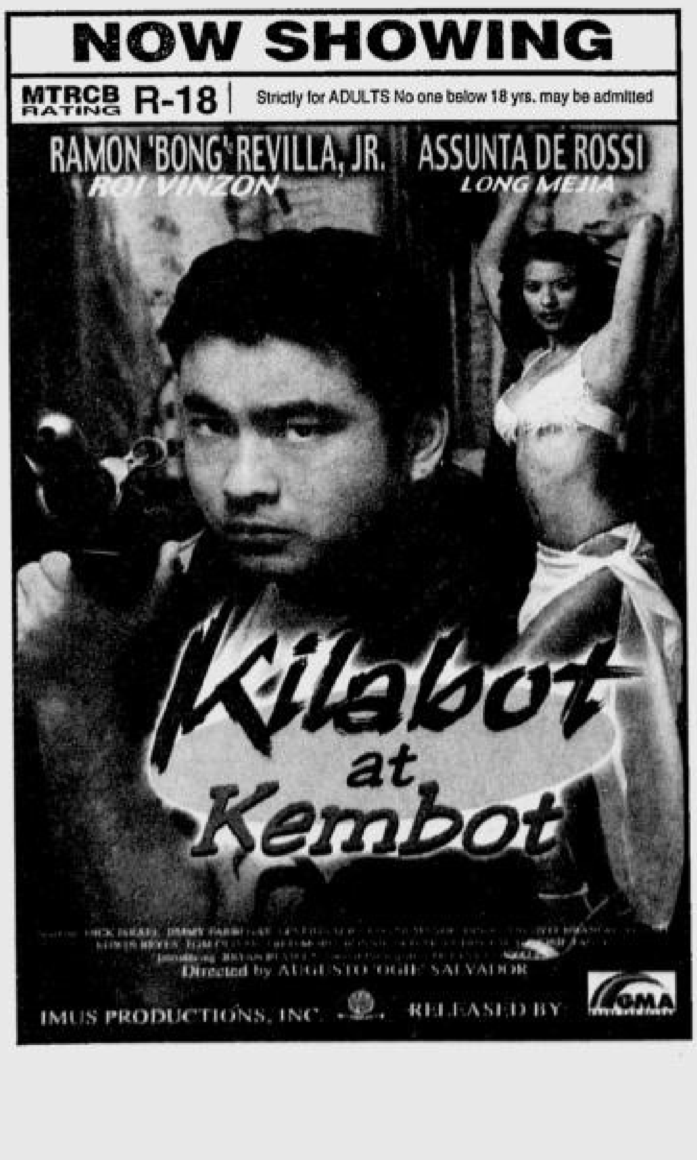
Soon, against his own expectations, Landon finds himself falling in love with this outwardly plain girl who sees beauty in everything and exhibits unwavering faith in people and in the world. But it isn't easy. For reasons of her own, Jamie does everything she can to run away from romance until it becomes impossible to deny.

"A Walk to Remember" is a story about love but as director Adam Shankman points out, "it's also about how faith in ourselves and our future can transform and define us and bring us truly alive."

Shankman ("The Wedding Planner") finds arty atmosphere in the film's small-town, North Carolina setting. And he extracts skillful performances from Moore and West that rise above the predictability of the plot.

"A Walk to Remember" is based on the best-selling novel by Nicholas Sparks ("Message in a Bottle").

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R18
2 STARWARS: Episode 2
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15
GP
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
MUSIC MUSEUM
MAY 31, 2002 RETROSPECT 9:00 PM



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POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
STAR WARS - GP 12:30, 3:30, 6:10, 9:00
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS-R18 1:10, 3:20,5:30, 7:40, 9:50
STAR WARS - GP 1:30, 4:20, 76:10, 10:00
RESIDENT EVIL-P12 11:45, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
DEATH TO SMOOCHY-P13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
PANIC ROOM-R18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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STAR WARS
EPISODE II
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EBERT & ROEPER
"A WHITE-KNUCKLE THRILLER OF SCARES AND SHOCKS!"
"AN INGENIOUS AND ENTERTAINING THRILLER."
"'PANIC ROOM' WILL MAKE YOU JUMP OUT OF YOUR SEAT"
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

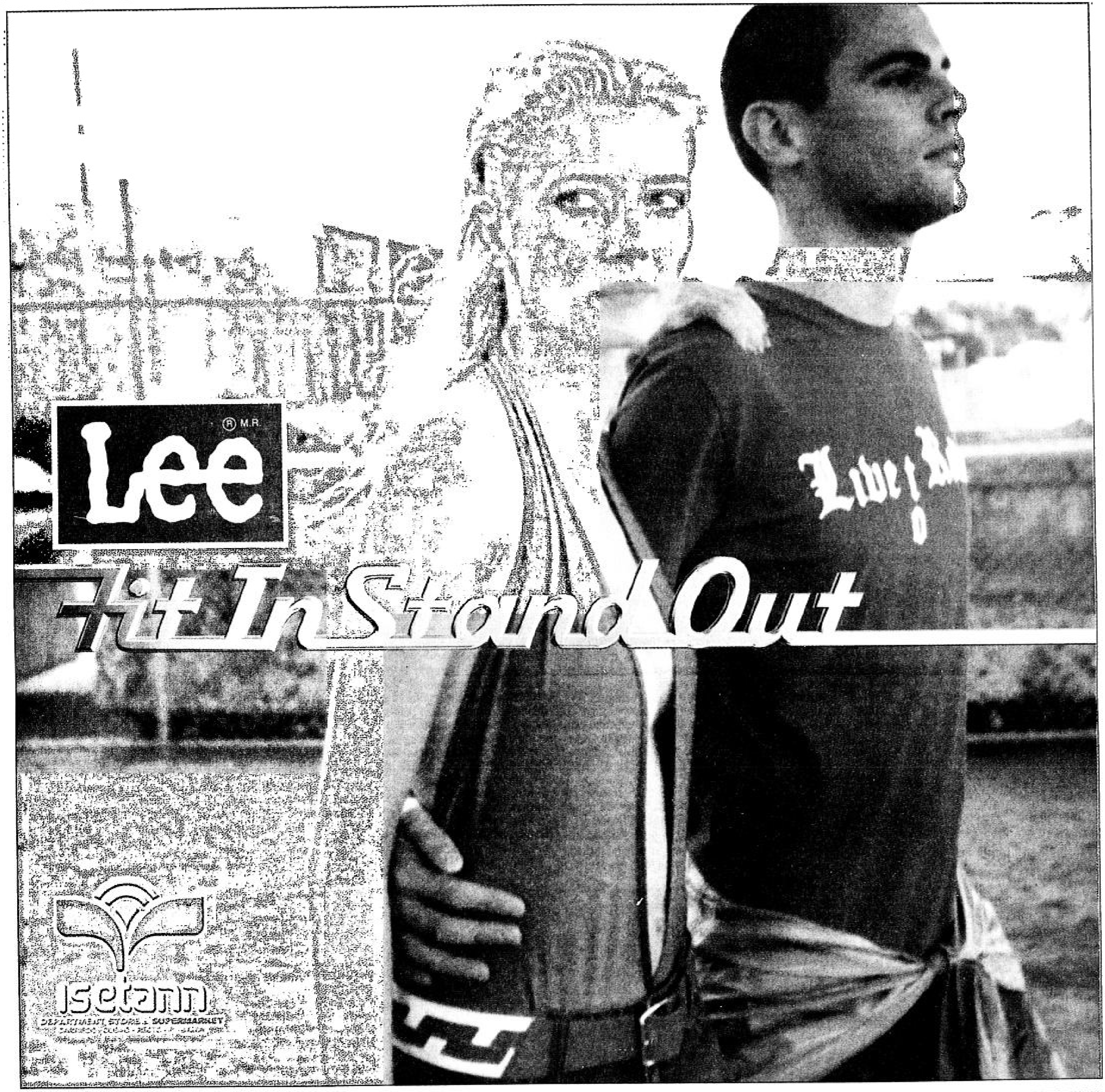
Shows and street parties highlight 'Araw ng Makati'

REGGAE bands Ariba and Brownman Revival will perform in a street party, "Sarap to Sundown," starting 5 p.m. today along Kalayaan Avenue near Rockwell, as part of the celebration of "Araw ng Makati."

The Bayanihan Dance Troupe will also do popular Philippine dances starting 5 p.m. at the Makati Park and Garden, located along the banks of the Pasig Rivera, J.P. Rizal Extension, in front of Pamantasan ng Makati.

On May 31, Moonstar 88, Cheese and The Youth will perform at the Ampitheater of the Makati

SHOWS/ A26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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Gokongwei shuts down ice cream unit

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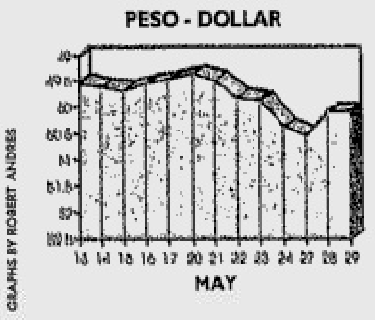

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As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2002

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per ounce Hong Kong,
May 29, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

SHARE prices closed fractionally lower yesterday in sluggish trade, brokers said.

Last-minute buying in telecoms firms failed to lift the market, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index inched down 1.7 points or 0.1 percent to 1,323.42.

Turnover was lower at 196.06 million shares but value was higher at P818.33 million from Tuesday's 298.515 million shares worth P303.822 million.

Late bargain-hunting was triggered on rumors PLDT would sell its stake in mobile phone unit Piltel to Digitel, brokers said. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER 25 years of serving the Philippine market with frozen delights, Universal Robina Corp.'s ice cream unit Presto-Tivoli will fold up operations by June on mounting losses caused by stiff competition.

INQUIRER sources said URC had advised its distributors and retailers that it would no longer continue its ice cream production and would instead focus on marketing its profitable branded food products.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on the sidelines of the URC stockholders' meeting on Tuesday, URC president Lance Gokongwei confirmed that a decision was made to stop ice cream production starting next month, noting that this business segment was operating in the red during the last five or six years.

"We can't afford to continue losing money," Gokongwei noted.

But Gokongwei stressed that the scheduled shutdown of the ice cream business would not significantly affect URC's operations since it accounted for less than one percent of the company's P18.9-billion revenue base in 2001.

LANCE GOKONGWEI

He estimated that URC's ice cream manufacturing unit, which operates under the dairy products division, yielded only about P200 million in annual revenues. He did not say how much losses were incurred each year.

Asked why URC did not try selling Presto-Tivoli instead, he said the unit was not likely to be attractive even to those who were already in the ice cream business.

"There are only two worldwide global players—Unilever and Nestlé—and they have overcapacity now," Gokongwei said.

As such, he said URC would simply shut down the ice cream manufacturing plant and try to sell the assets.

Aside from Presto-Tivoli, URC's dairy products division also previously launched the Swiss Miss brand of ice cream through a royalty agreement with ConArga Grocery.

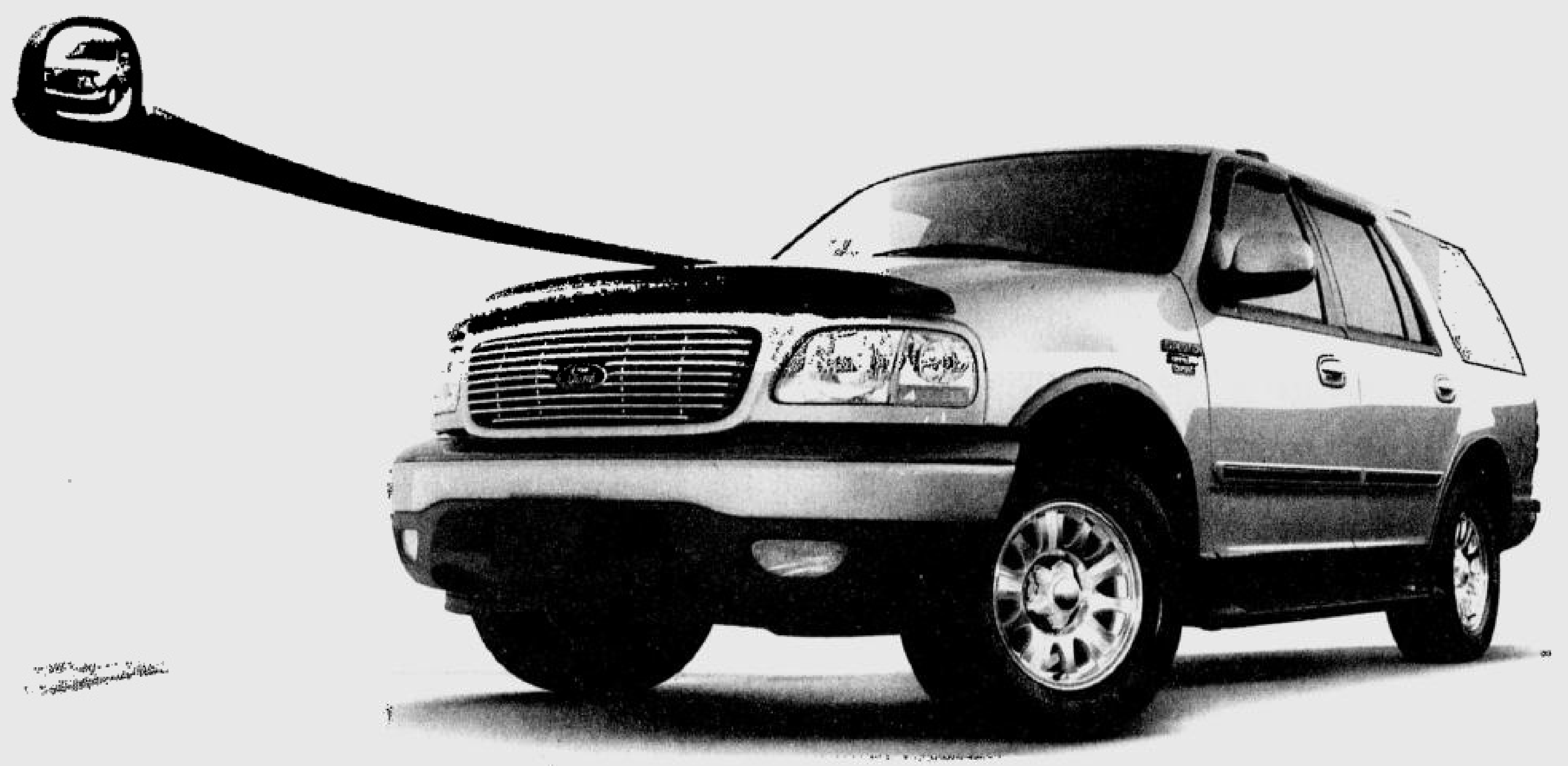
While URC is but a small player in the packaged ice cream market in the Philippines compared to industry leaders Selecta-Walls Inc. (a partnership between RFM Corp. and Unilever group) and Magnolia-Nestlé, it ranks number one in most other branded consumer foods businesses.

During the stockholders' meeting, Gokongwei reported that URC has a 39-percent domestic market share in candies, 26 percent in chocolates, 23 percent in biscuits, 48 percent in snacks, 49 percent in cup noodles and 45 percent in three-in-one coffee mix.

URC is also expanding to offshore markets, seeking to become the "first Filipino-owned regional branded food powerhouse." It now has marketing, manufacturing and distribution capabilities in Thailand, Malaysia and China as well as a marketing presence in Hong Kong and Singapore. It will open new confectionery plants in Shanghai and Jakarta and is studying the Vietnamese market for future penetration.

"Our main strategy is to grow geographically and because of Afta (Asean Free Trade Agreement) now, the trade barriers particularly in Asean are going down, which it makes it (regional expansion) more attractive without having to recreate and reinvest in the manufacturing facilities," he said.

URC posted a 23-percent rise in net profit to P1.06 billion in 2001 from a year ago.



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DBP plans to securitize ₱43-B loan portfolio

By Elena R. Torrijos

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines is planning to securitize part of its P43-billion wholesale loan portfolio to enable the government financial institution to continue lending to its conduit banks.

In a briefing yesterday, DBP president Simon Paterno said the securitization of its wholesale loan portfolio would address its inability to continue lending to some of its good-standing conduit banks that had already reached the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-imposed single borrower's limit.

The bank had considered asking the BSP to relax the SBL restriction and allow the DBP to continue lending to its conduit banks although loans extended to them already hit the SBL.

Paterno, however, said yesterday that the plan did not push through. "We are, instead, looking for ways to enable us to continue lending to good borrowers and remain compliant to the SBL."

Under the BSP rules, banks can lend, on a wholesale basis, a maximum of 35 percent of their total loan portfolio to any single borrower.

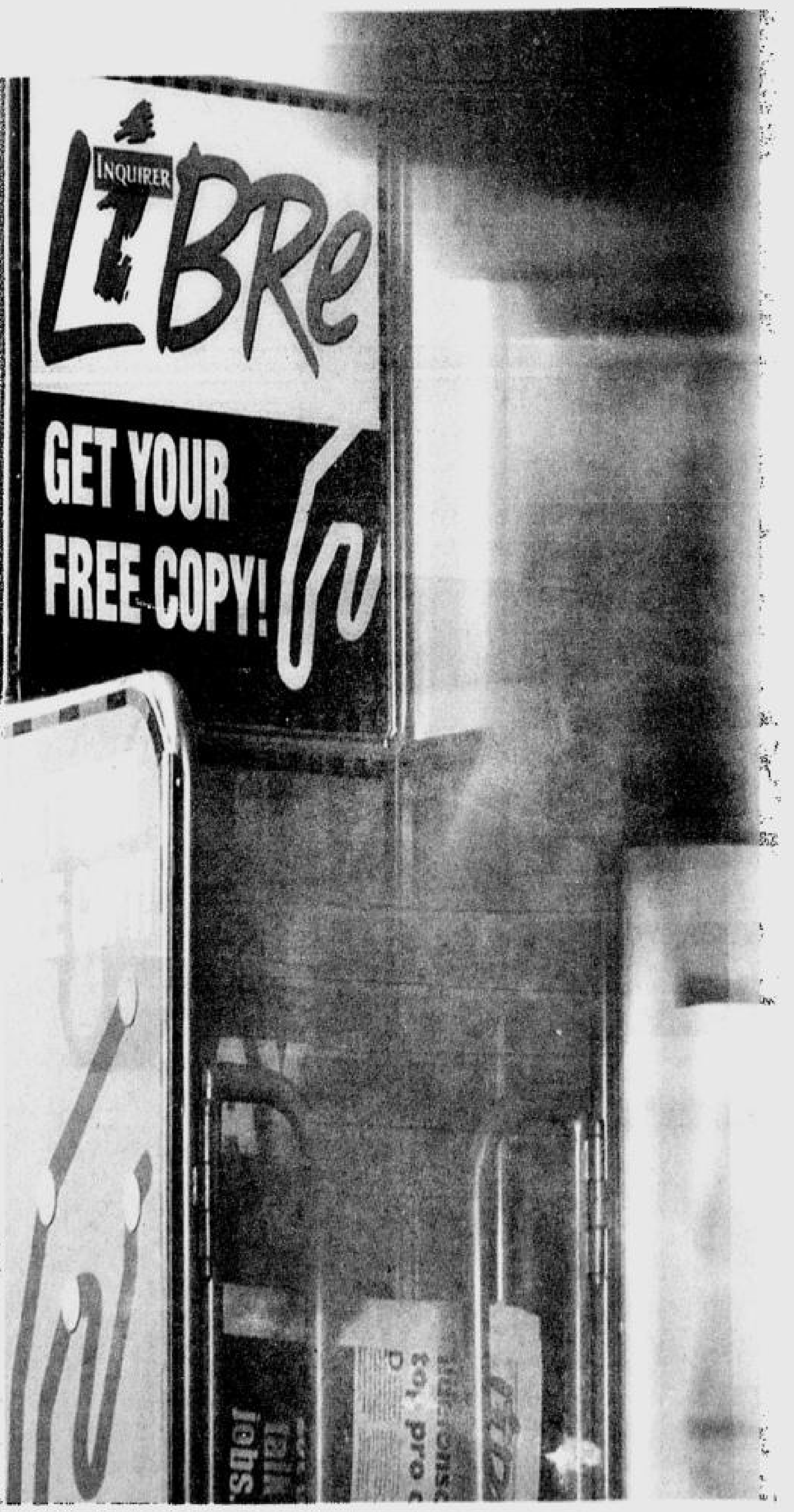
In view of the recent mergers in the banking industry, however, DBP found its loans to some of the banks participating to its lending programs exceeding the SBL.

Loans to Far East Bank and Trust Co., for instance, were lumped with those extended to Bank of the Philippine Islands when they merged. The same holds true with the loans extended to Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. group and the banks that it absorbed earlier.

BPI and Metrobank are two of the most successful conduits of the DBP in its lending programs.

As of April this year, DBP's loan portfolio amounted to P84.61 billion, of which wholesale loans accounted for P43.17 billion while retail loans accounted for P41.44 billion.

Aside from its deposit base, DBP also relies on low-cost funding from multilateral institutions to support its lending programs for small and medium enterprises.



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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMETIMES, in every congressman's life, duty to country makes a call without any warning whatsoever. "Surprise," is the precise greeting of duty to country.

Startled, the congressman then is expected to begin to speak in various strange tongues. It's hard even for language experts to understand what they are saying.

That, in summary, as many in business believe, is probably what happened to two congressmen. They are Representatives Jacinto Paras and Rolex Sulpico.

The burning issue of the day is electricity. Why does it cost too much? Here, the cost is four to five times the cost in other countries. It's obvious that something must be wrong.

After an apparent unannounced visit of duty to country, Paras and Sulpico suddenly blurt out an idea. And that is, the government must take over Meralco.

As chair of the House transport and communications committee, Paras has special powers to receive duty to country as House guest. Sulpico is just named after a watch.

* * *

ANYWAY, the brilliant idea has historical basis. During the time of Marcos, the dictator simply handed over the control of Meralco to his brother-in-law. Look what happened!

Of course you can argue that, under the dictatorship, anything and everything could be done. Unfortunately, to the world we now claim we have a working democracy.

How can we make the brilliant idea of Paras and Sulpico a reality? Simple! They say the Constitution allows the takeover in the name of public interest.

Cool! In other words, this cute administration of Gloriaetta invokes its duty to uphold the Constitution, and the government controls Meralco again. Really cool!

In this country. anything can be made legal. We all know that! As Sen. Joker Arroyo says, all it takes is . . . well, "winning." If you lose, you go to jail. Oops!

The takeover can be done, why not, and it can be done legally. It's not about legality. The question is, do you think it's a stupid measure or is it simply hilarious?

* * *

PRECISELY, we are at the brink today because of too much government hand in a business which the government should not even touch with the dirt under its fingernail.

That's the idea behind the Epira, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. Take the government out of the power business, before it buries up to nine generations of Filipinos in debts!

Our state-owned Napocor can produce electricity at 9 cents per kilowatthour. Companies of its kind in other countries, actually, do it at 4 to 5 cents.

Still, Napocor is losing a lot of money. We already pay for Napocor electricity something like double of what people in other countries pay for. Yet Napocor is losing a lot of money. How do you explain it? Well, because it is run by the government, that's all.

Now here come Paras and Sulpico, who were earlier said to belong to the infamous Gang of 5 in Congress, to solve the problem, wanting more of the same.

* * *

IN a month, the Securities and Exchange Commission expects certain companies to submit the manual of corporate governance. It is required by law on specific companies.

They are the listed corporations, pre-needs, financing companies, investment houses, and stockbrokering firms. They are the companies directly under the SEC.

Banks must also meet the deadline, which is July 1, if they are listed. Otherwise banks do not have to bother. And the same is true for those in insurance.

They fall under the Office of Insurance Commission. I heard that gambling syndicates are also excused. They report to the Philippine National Police, anyway.

I mean, they are the responsibility of the police. They are also the subject of the DILG's aggressive all-out serious uncompromising campaign, honest.

Anyway, those companies must make their own manual of corporate governance.

It sounds to me like they are writing their own rules.

* * *

ALL that jazz about corporate governance is part of the SEC's awareness campaign. SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, in fact, is accepting a lot of speaking engagements.

Recently the SEC chair gave a talk before the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She begged the PCCI members for cooperation.

Cooperation, particularly between the police (i.e SEC) and the public (i.e business), is a nice word. It is almost noble. What's more, in business, it is just a word.

Well the PCCI is not exactly an NGO. It is basically a lobby group. Business groups try to take care of business interests.

And to some companies, hiding things from the SEC, precisely, is one of them.

Really, if the SEC wants this governance thing to fly, it must do its job, period.

It must go out like a real policeman and catch the thieves. The business thieves will not come to the SEC, with or without the PCCI's cooperation.

* * *

ALL over the world, of course, corporate governance is the buzzword. I guess we have to pay attention to it, if we want to attract investments from abroad.

But the problem is, it's hard to enforce here—even with the cooperation of the PCCI. I'm afraid the biggest problem lies in the very set-up of public listing.

We are probably the only country in the world which allows the public listing of only 10 percent of a company's outstanding stocks. The only one!

Most often, the rest of the stocks is controlled by a small group. What they say, naturally, goes.Yet this small group can raise a lot of money from the public.

It is the kind of set-up that is not compatible with the idea of corporate governance. We have to change it. Or corporate governance also becomes just a word. Okay, make that two words.

BOI approves ₱453-M fish processing project

WHILE the government is stepping up efforts to gain significant market access for tuna in the United States and Europe, local investors are building up their capacities in anticipation of increases in demand.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II recently announced that two major projects involved in tuna canning were already in the pipeline.

"These are positive developments in our efforts to enhance the tuna industry in the Philippines. Being the lifeblood of the economy in Mindanao, the survival and growth of the tuna canning industry is critical to the government's poverty-reduction efforts in the South," he said.

The Board of Investments recently approved the P453-million worth of investments of Miramar Fishing Co. Inc. (MFCI), a Zamboanga-based company involved in fish processing. MFCI will sell its products exclusively to its marketing partner, Canada-based BCP International Marketing Ltd. It can produce 2.55 million cases of canned tuna and 720,000 cases of canned pet food yearly. The project is expected to provide jobs to 1,500 people.

MFCI is accredited by recognized government regulatory agencies such as the Canadian CFIA, South African Bureau of Standards (SABS Mark), EEC Approved Facility and the Philippine Government Joint Committee for US HACCP Compliance. Commercial operations are expected to start in June this year.

In the meantime, the rehabilitation of First Dominion Prime Holdings Inc. (FDPHI) has been approved by the National Capital Judicial Court of Pasig City, Branch 158. Upon the approval of the rehabilitation plan, negotiations were initiated with prospective investors willing to infuse capital into the company, which would be used to pay its debts and provide working capital. Talks with Malaysian and German groups are ongoing.

First Dominion used to be the country's largest canning group with three subsidiaries such as Maranaw Canning Corp., Nautica Canning Corp., and Clearwater Tuna Corp.

Maranaw Canning Corp. and Nautica Canning Corp. are based in General Santos City while Clearwater Tuna Canning Corp. is in Navotas. The group used to employ 6,000 workers.

"The socioeconomic impact of First Dominion's continued survival, particularly in Mindanao, cannot be overemphasized," wrote court-appointed rehabilitation receiver Guido Alfredo Delgado in a letter to Roxas.

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SSS seen open to property swap with Metro Pacific

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SOCIAL Security System said it has started negotiations with Metro Pacific Corp. for a swap arrangement to settle the P1.5-billion obligation of the real estate firm to the pension fund.

SSS president Corazon dela Paz said the state-run fund manager was open to the debt-to-property swap that was proposed by Metro Pacific but only if the company would agree to trade a piece of prime property at a discount.

"We want to get the property at a discount. And then we could take advantage when the value has gone up after major players like the Sy and the Gokongweis start coming in," the SSS chief said.

Metro Pacific has offered to swap a lot in the Big Delta area in the Fort Bonifacio Global City as payment for its P1.5 billion in debt to the SSS.

The P1.5-billion obligation to the SSS stemmed from a guarantee it gave to long-term commercial papers issued in 1995 by its subsidiary, Bonifacio Land Corp.

A year after the Bonifacio subsidiary issued the debt papers, the obligations were absorbed by Metro Pacific which, in turn, asked the SSS for assistance.

Dela Paz said the SSS was not completely averse to a payment-in-kind or dacion en pago arrangement for as long as it would realize some gains from the transaction.

For instance, the pension fund said it was also open to a dacion arrangement with Philippine National Construction Corp. for the payment of the SSS contributions of its employees that it had failed to remit.

In the stock market, the SSS is also looking to dispose of some stocks that had been "closely held" by owners and also those that had been idle for some time.

"We want to dispose some P2 billion worth of closely-held stocks," said Dela Paz.

The SSS had recently sold its equity in Aboitiz Equity Ventures while it said it would hold on indefinitely to its holdings in Equitable PCI Bank.

As for the property swap, Dela Paz said the SSS would sell the real estate in Fort Bonifacio when the property market has sufficiently recovered from its present slump.

Bonifacio Land owns 55 percent of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the company which manages the development of the Global City. State-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority owns the remaining 45 percent in FBDC.

Metro Pacific has started talks with some of its creditors to restructure more than P8 billion in debts that had been eating up into its profits.

The company owned by Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. won the bidding in 1995 to develop more than 200 hectares of property in the former military base in Taguig.

Dubbed as the property deal of the last century, Metro Pacific's bid for the government property reached almost P40 billion. But the Asian crisis in 1997 had made the property sector very vulnerable as costly projects were financed by loans.

The depreciation of the peso bloated the debts of most property companies that could not sell the assets they have developed because of the economic crisis.

Most companies were unwilling to bring down their prices even up to now because they wanted to recover the amount they needed to settle the loans.

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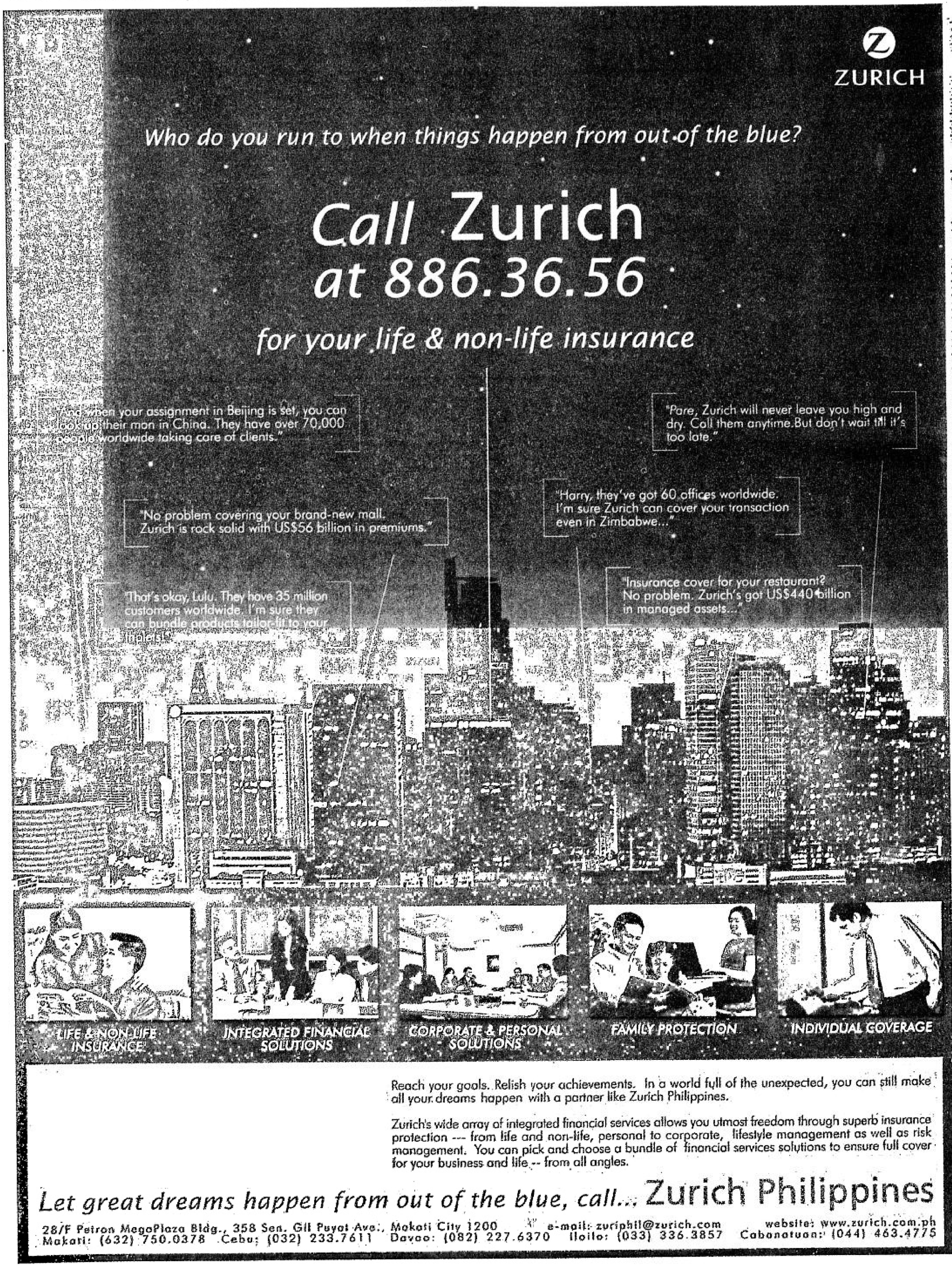

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Meralco raises authorized capital stock to ₱1.62B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER distribution giant Manila Electric Co. is increasing its authorized capital stock by 15 percent or P1.62 billion.

Meralco chief finance officer Daniel Tagaza said in an interview the new capital stock represented 162 million common shares valued at P10 each.

Meralco has a current authorized capital stock of P1.08 billion.

"(The move is meant) to address the company's accumulated retained earnings, which is now more than its paid-up capital," Tagaza said.

He said the Securities and Exchange Commission did not allow this and that Meralco would then have to declare stock dividends.

"The increase in our authorized capital stock is (in preparation) for future declarations of cash or stock dividends," Tagaza said.

But during Meralco's annual stockholders' meeting on Tuesday, Meralco chair Manuel Lopez said the utility was not declaring any dividends this year.

Lopez said Meralco's board of directors thought it would not be prudent to declare any form of dividend until the Energy Regulatory Commission has decided on the firm's petitions.

The ERC is expected to come out next month with a decision on Meralco's unbundled rates petition, which is expected to result in an average rate increase of P1.12 per kilowatt-hour.

Before that, Meralco filed in April 2000 a petition to raise rates by 30 centavos per kwh.

However, ERC Chair Fe Barin noted earlier that the 2000 petition was based on a bundled system while the law orders the unbundling of power rates into its different components.

"We have to wait for the ERC's decision before we could talk on whether or not there is a need to declare dividends," the Meralco chair said.

Also, Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said the firm might have to slash its capital expenditures budget from P6.8 billion to about P4.5 billion if Meralco was not allowed to increase its rates within the year.

"Our internal funds can only cover P4.5 billion," Andrada said. "To borrow from foreign lenders is definitely out of the question considering Meralco's financial condition."

Salcon, Napocor agree on revised power deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

SALCON Power Corp. and National Power Corp. have agreed to amend their 15-year rehabilitate-operate-maintain-and-manage (ROMM) agreement over the Naga power plant complex to allow certain reimbursements favoring the former.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SPC senior vice president Alfredo Ballesteros said the company signed with Napocor on May 24 the first amendment to the ROMM agreement of 1994.

"This event brings to a close several years of discussion between the parties on how certain provisions of the ROMM agreement should be interpreted and applied in the course of its implementation," Ballesteros said.

"It also resolves and paves the way for the early settlement of long-standing claims that the parties have against each other. The amounts of these claims are presently being finalized by the parties," he added.

In particular, he said SPC would be able to receive reimbursements by Napocor of amounts it deducted previously from fees due to SPC, net of certain claims of the state-owned power firm acknowledged by SPC.

"The reimbursement has been a major concern of SPC's investors and lenders and other interested parties. Once received, the cash position of the company will improve further," Ballesteros said.

"Basically, the first amendment and the clarificatory guidelines define clearly the basis for determining unserved energy, and the corresponding penalty . . . It also lays down clearly the parameters for resolving certain operational and technical issues," he explained.

Under the ROMM deal, SPC's billings to Napocor were fixed up to 2009, representing fees for generating and exclusively delivering electricity to Napocor through the Naga power plant complex. Napocor's purchase of power from the facility was guaranteed on a take-or-pay arrangement, based on an energy minimum off-take specified in the ROMM agreement.

According to SPC's prospectus, the base energy fees under the ROMM are expected to provide about 64 percent of its revenues for the fiscal year ending July 2002 while the operating and maintenance fees are expected to pump in about 36 percent for the same period.

SPC won the 15-year ROMM agreement over the 203.8 megawatt Naga power plant complex through a public bidding conducted by Napocor in 1994. The company's flagship project and initial venture in the Philippine power industry, the Naga facility consisted of diesel engine, coal thermal and gas turbine plants in Cebu. This is part of the Visayas interconnected grid with an installed capacity of 1,553.8 mw.

PLDT targets 70% of Internet mart by 2006

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. aims to corner at least 70 percent of the total Internet market by 2006 by setting up another Internet service provider to "work in synergy" with ePLDT subsidiary Infocom Technologies Inc.

In a briefing yesterday, PLDT national retail marketing sector head Joaquin San Agustin said PLDT Vibe, its new ISP, would complement Infocom's existing service offerings, allowing it to cover all sectors of the Internet market.

Instead of eating into Infocom's existing market, he explained that PLDT Vibe was designed for the higher-income markets, specially Vibe's pay-per-use postpaid offering.

"Vibe will be a separate ISP from Infocom and would be offering more premium services. Infocom would be more on the standard services, offering good quality service and value for money. Vibe is more high-end. We're targeting two distinct segments," he said.

By end-2003, San Agustin said PLDT is expected to generate about P60 million in revenues from the new ISP, with P45 million coming from postpaid subscriptions.

He assured that it would be easier to subscribe to PLDT Vibe than to other ISPs because it did not require existing PLDT postpaid residential subscribers to connect with a separate ISP.

PLDT/ B5

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DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. increased its number of directors from seven to nine and elected to the board were John Gokongwei Jr., James Go, Johnson Robert Go Sr., Lance Gokongwei, Patrick Henry Go, Frederick Go, Wilfrido Sanchez, Robert Coyiuto Jr. and Oscar Reyes.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 14,100 of its own shares at P33.50 per share and another 12,000 shares at P34 per share.

* * *

FAR Eastern University declared a P7.50 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of June 27 and shall be payable on July 8.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Manila Electric Co.** were Felipe Alfonso, Juan Luis Lopez-Cardenete, Carlos Dominguez, Octavio Victor Espiritu, Jesus Francisco, Monico Jacob, Manuel Lopez, Christian Monsod, Washington Sycip, Margarito Teves and Cesar Virata. The company also increased its authorized common stock from 1.08 billion to 1.242 billion shares.

* * *

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. said it is not aware of any information that could have caused the increase of its trading price. It believes the price was purely market-driven.

* * *

FORUM Pacific Inc. said it has no knowledge of any information that may have affected the value and trading of its securities. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, May 29, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	762,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	56	6,174,600
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	40	39	40	376,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	38.5	39	252,700
Philippine National Bank	39	39	38	38	29,800
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	11.75	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	15	15	14	14.5	199,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.25	22.75	22.75	49,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1460	1460	1460	1,130
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1100	1100	2,400
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	28,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.66	0.75	0.66	0.74	31,490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	680	670	680	25,980
Piltel	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.4	5,880,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	160,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	430	445	425	435	190,590
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	15,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	23.5	22.5	23.25	25,400
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33.5	32	33.5	1,235,000
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.88	7,994,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	445,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	80,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	100,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	707,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	201,200
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	46.5	47	363,200
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	53.5	50.5	52.5	1,357,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.8	6,022,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	1,201,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	360,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	11,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	6,720,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	210,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	444,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	371,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.78	1.78	815,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.77	2,070,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Music Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	50,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	9.5	9.5	13,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	40,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	210,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30.5	30	30	204,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	835	850	835	845	2,810
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	220,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	4,217,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	170,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	2,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3	3.1	2.9	3.1	4,894,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	49,000
SM Development Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.91	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	3,381,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.02	2.02	2	2	65,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	2,080,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	9,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	1,520,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	19,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	7,916,730	395,998,300.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	100,945,760	354,475,180.00
PRO	16,261,000	66,490,290.00
Mining	26,025,000	1,406,600.00
OIL	44,300,000	155,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	195,448,490	818,526,170.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	539.55	DOWN 3.97
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,786.34	DOWN 0.98
PRO	607.04	UP 1.70
Mining	1,478.10	UP 44.96
OIL	1.23	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	754.69	UP 0.41
Composite	1,323.42	DOWN 1.70

NO. OF ADVANCES: 37; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 2,470

CURRENCIES

May 29, 2002

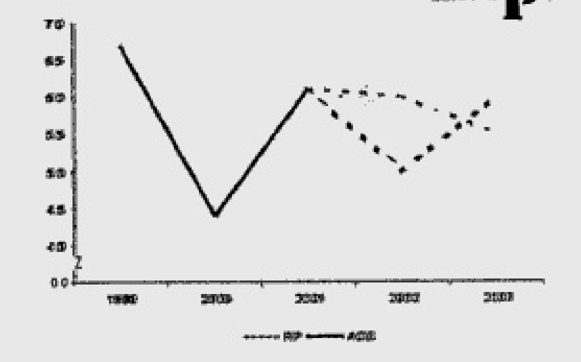
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.076426	1.000000	50.1380
Japan	Yen	0.008648	0.008034	0.4028
United Kingdom	Pound	1.570936	1.459400	73.1714
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138011	0.128212	6.4283
Switzerland	Franc	0.684054	0.635486	31.8620
Canada	Dollar	0.703316	0.653381	32.7592
Singapore	Dollar	0.600215	0.557600	27.9569
Australia	Dollar	0.604394	0.561482	28.1516
Bahrain	Dinar	2.855394	2.652661	132.9991
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.287040	0.266660	13.3698
Brunei	Dollar	0.597019	0.554631	27.8081
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000113	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025298	0.023502	1.1783
UAE	Dirham	0.293088	0.272279	13.6515
Korea	Won	0.000881	0.000818	0.0410
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.929000	46.5782
Argentina	Peso	0.318340	0.293255	14.8270
Brazil	Real	0.312008	0.289855	14.5327
Denmark	Kroner	0.426815	0.396511	19.8803
India	Rupee	0.134461	0.020442	1.0249
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.283270	0.263158	13.1942
Mexico	New Peso	0.112503	0.104515	5.2402
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512583	0.476190	23.8752
Norway	Kroner	0.135434	0.125818	6.3083
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017970	0.016694	0.8370
South Africa	Rand	0.109060	0.101317	5.0798
Sweden	Kroner	0.109182	0.101430	5.0855
Syria	Pound	0.024632	0.022883	1.1473
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031493	0.029257	1.4669
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001015	0.000943	0.0473

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Inflation rate targets: ADB & Philippine gov't

(2000 to 2003, in percent)



Source: Asian Development Bank's Outlook 2002, Medium Term Dev't Plan

THE COUNTRY'S average inflation rate for the first four months of the year was way below the government's target of 5 to 6 percent. For 2003, the government sees the inflation rate falling to a range of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. The Asian Development Bank projected this year's inflation to reach 5 percent, to increase to 6 percent next year.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Peso mirrors fundamentals, says BSP

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas believes the peso currency is fairly valued at its current level of 49-50 to the dollar, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said on Wednesday.

He said in an interview that the bank did not have a specific target for the currency and had no plans to intervene, except to smoothen the volatility if needed.

Asked if the current peso exchange rate reflected fundamentals, Buenaventura said: "Yes, that's why we didn't do any intervention in a major way because we felt it was within the normal trading range."

He said the currency remained competitive with regional peers despite reaching a one-year high earlier this month. It has slipped slightly in recent days. Exports would not be affected, he said.

Buenaventura added that "to a certain extent" the prospects of a pick-up in economic activity later this year would justify further strengthening of the currency, but also noted that it would be influenced by the movements of regional currencies.

"Many analysts have predicted that it could hit 48 (to $1). Yes, that's doable but the big question is will other currencies move in that direction?" Buenaventura said.

The dollar remained weak against major currencies in Asian trade on Wednesday, under pressure due to uncertainties about the economic recovery in the United States.

He declined to give a timeframe for when the peso could hit 48.

"We do not try to target any specific exchange rate. We want it to be market-determined," he said.

Asked about intervention, he said: "From time to time, yes, we do intervene, but only again to prevent an over-reaction . . . What the central bank does is it tries to smoothen that volatility by putting on brakes."

Buenaventura did not comment on when and whether the central bank intervened recently, but said rumors it was in the market last Friday were "pure speculation."

"They (traders) were totally off. They were saying we were buying pesos. Now, why would we buy pesos on the way up?"

Buenaventura said exports, made up mainly of electronic components, may grow up to 5 percent in 2002, compared to an original zero growth projection.

"That was the concern of the exporters, when the peso was appreciating, that we were not going to be competitive. I pointed it out to them that this was not the case because the appreciation of the peso was in step with the appreciation of our competing countries," he said.

Asked about media reports of panic buying by local corporates driving peso/dollar rates in recent days, Buenaventura said: "That's always been the problem sometimes here, where on the way when the peso appreciates, people hesitate in the hope it will strengthen further. But when it moves in the opposite direction, then they panic and buy to cover their positions."

The central bank would use verbal as well as actual intervention to prevent overreaction in the markets from time to time, he said. *Reuters*

Digitel, PLDT stocks surge on buyout rumors

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHARES of Digital Telecommunications Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday sizzled at the Philippine Stock Exchange on talks that Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. might sell its shares in PLDT to the former.

The Gokongweis' Digitel, the country's second biggest fixed line phone provider which will soon launch mobile services, saw its shares rising by 13.85 percent to close at 74 centavos. It was among the most actively traded issue at the local bourse, with volume turnover hitting 31.49 million shares.

PLDT shares likewise gained by P5 to close at 435 on volume of 190,590 shares.

Dealers said the stocks rose on speculation that First Pacific was selling out its stake in PLDT to Digitel, which is owned by the family of taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Industry sources said First Pacific, which has suffered from losses in its various businesses in the region including the Philippines, had asked its Manila-based people to choose whether to unload investments in crown jewel Fort Bonifacio Global City or in PLDT.

Earlier, local property unit Metro Pacific Corp. tried to bid out its controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Co. but was not able to strike an acceptable deal in view of the continuing slump in the property sector.

As such, the market speculation was that First Pacific might be willing to sell its PLDT shares now.

First Pacific is the single biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 17-percent stake.

On the other hand, market analysts believed that the cash-rich Gokongwei group, which was serious in getting a foothold in the telecommunications business, would be willing to buy out First Pacific.

Digitel earlier launched a takeover bid for Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. as part of its bid to expand its fixed line business.

Digitel was also rumored to be keen on buying PLDT's mobile phone unit Pilipino Telephone Corp., which underwent a comprehensive rehabilitation, but this was denied by the Gokongweis.

Officials from either PLDT or Digitel were not available for comment as of press time.

PLDT . . .

From page B4

Interested telephone subscribers only had to configure their personal computers or laptops with the Vibe service and dial access numbers 101300 for postpaid and 101333 for prepaid.

Postpaid services would be on a "pay-per-surf" basis, incorporating charges into a subscriber's monthly phone bill.

PLDT Vibe rates are 50 centavos a minute during peak hours (6:01 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and 25 centavos a minute during off-peak hours (10:01 p.m. to 6 a.m.) for both postpaid and prepaid. These rates, San Agustin said, were higher than Infocom's 21 centavos-a-minute charge.

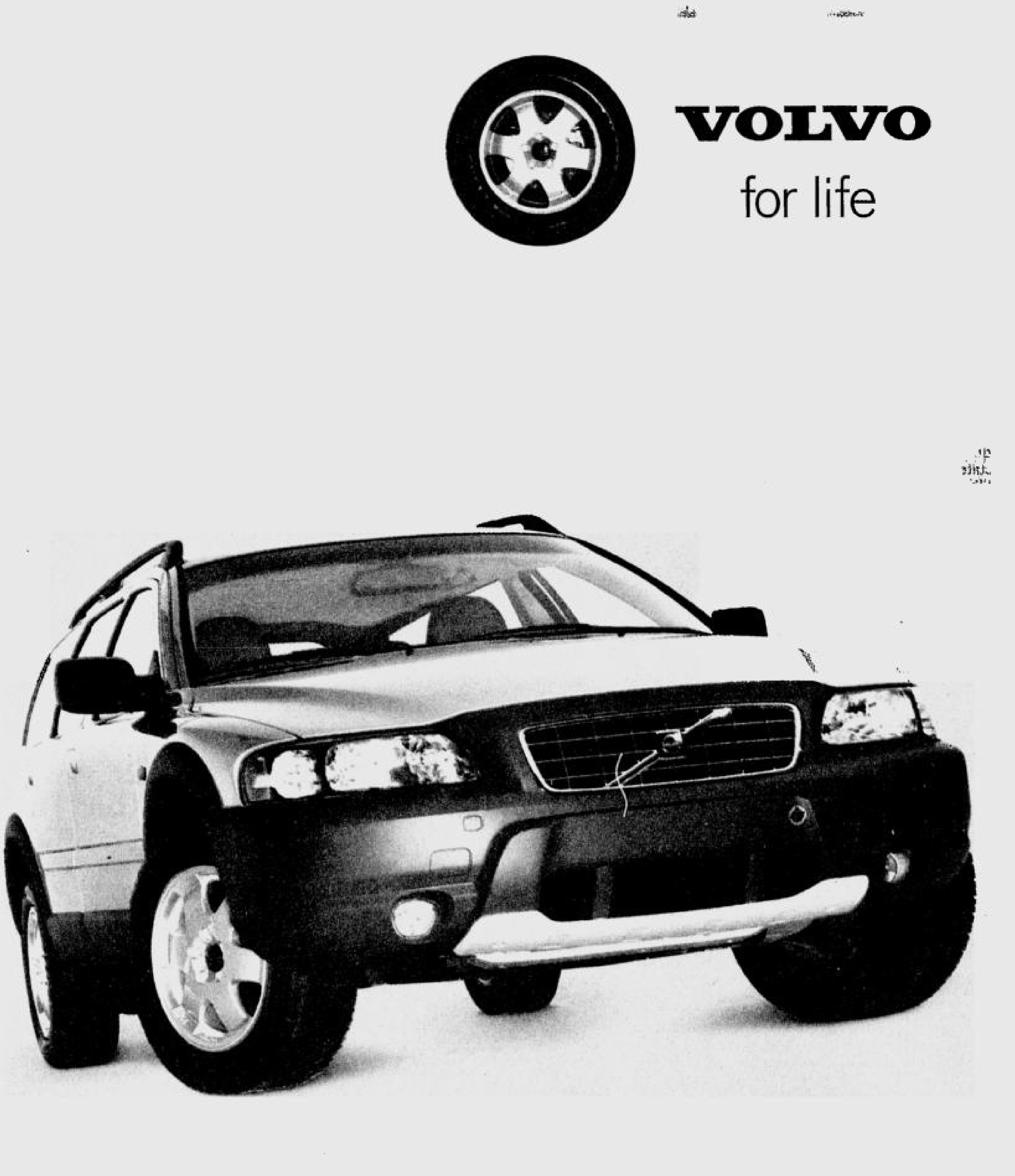
Aside from generating additional revenues, maximizing its existing infrastructure and bandwidth and maintaining a competitive edge over other fixed-line operators, he said PLDT Vibe would be a come-on for prospective customers as well as subscribers of rival phone firms.

"Of our 1.5 million postpaid residential subscribers, we expect 60,000 to subscribe to PLDT Vibe by the end of the year. But we have no figure yet as to how many new subscribers we'll be able to get," he said. "We're focusing now on our existing subscribers."

During the free trial period from April 15 to May 15, almost 26,000 subscribers connected to the Internet with PLDT Vibe. After the trial period, another 4,000 subscribers, on top of the 26,000, tried the service.

The telecommunications giant's new service is just one of the three key areas that the firm would be focusing on over the next five years. The other areas are PLDT's residential broadband service, myDSL, and ePLDT's new wireless high-speed Internet service, Blink.

For its five-year plan, San Agustin said PLDT would be allotting about P100 million for additional network augmentations that PLDT Vibe would require.



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Oil, weather pose biggest risks to Asia-Pacific

SINGAPORE—Oil, weather and assessing the value of holding US dollar assets posed key risks to Pacific economies, a major international think tank said Tuesday as fears over the economic impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes dissipated.

With the notable exception of Japan, all other economies in the region would show signs of recovery this year, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) said in its latest "Pacific Economic Outlook" report.

"There is less uncertainty about the key elements of the short-term outlook than six months ago," it said.

Economic growth in the region "is expected to accelerate in 2002, but still remains below 3 percent. It will push toward 4 percent in 2003," PECC said.

But the report outlined potential pitfalls ahead and questioned "what makes the holding of United States dollar assets relatively more attractive? Will it continue?"

According to PECC projections, the US current account deficit would swell from $390 billion in 2001 to $560 billion in 2003, higher than the total deficit for the Pacific economies of $480 billion.

Behind the change is a strong growth in imports, which is a critical contributor to growth in the rest of the Pacific.

"This position implies a substantial draw on funds from the rest of the world," the report said.

"The Europeans and the Middle East economies become more important 'savers' for the United States in this scenario, but can the capital markets sustain this level of deficit?"

PECC forecasters noted that oil prices were currently around $25 per barrel, which was above the long-term expectation of $18 to $20, and there was a risk of a price spike if supplies from Iraq were cut off.

On the weather front, the odds of a new El Niño weather pattern were put at 50 percent, with the main effect expected in mid-2003.

The consequences included drier conditions in the western Pacific with "significant implications" for countries with large agriculture sectors, while heavier rain in the east put the United States at greater risk of storm damage and posed "substantial risks" to fishing for Peru.

Asia-Pacific economies are recovering from a devastating performance in 2001 when the weighted average output grew just 1.2 percent.

It was the second worst performance since internationally oriented growth in East Asia was established in 1950, with output growing 0.9 percent in 1998 at the height of the Asian financial crisis.

Of the major economies in the region, PECC saw growth of 2.5 percent in the United States this year, China would remain above 7.5 percent but Japan would stay in negative territory because of low-level domestic demand.

Latin American economies, headed by the recovery in Mexico and expected strong growth in Peru would grow a bit slower than East Asia in 2002, and about the same rate next year. *AFP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Intel cuts prices

SAN FRANCISCO—Intel Corp. has cut prices on some of its microprocessors by as much as 53 percent, as the world's largest chipmaker's investments in manufacturing over the past two years are starting to pay off.

Intel regularly cuts prices throughout the year as its production costs drop and demand shifts.

The company said, however, this round of price cuts was a direct result of the billions of dollars it spent on upgrading chip factories with machines that made chips from larger wafers and with shrinking line widths and transistors on its chips.

"One thing that's different here is we're seeing aggressive production yields," said Intel spokesperson Robert Manetta. "Our investments over the last couple of years are really starting to pay dividends."

The price cuts will likely mean lower prices for personal computers and laptops and could increase pressure on Intel's longtime rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc., analysts say.

Hybrid cars to mainstream

TOKYO—In a car park in Tokyo's trendy waterfront area this month, some 40 cars lined up face to face.

They weren't there to race and the models might not be the coolest designs ever to hit the road, but their owners are convinced they are driving the cars of the future.

On one side were 20 Prius sedans, on the other Estima hybrid minivans—both models that combine a gasoline engine and a battery-powered electric motor.

Touted by Japanese makers as "the next big thing" after the traditional internal combustion engine, hybrid gas-electric vehicles offer from 1.5 times to twice the fuel efficiency of gasoline cars of the same size, cutting carbon dioxide emissions.

"My company is environmentally conscious and there was the attraction of trying something new, and my colleagues were egging me on, so I bought one," said Shigetsugu Betchaku, a member of Priusmania, a web-based club that organized the meeting for gas-electric vehicle owners.

Unlike pure electric cars, hybrids do not need to be plugged in to be recharged, but they are more expensive than gasoline cars, with the Estima hybrid costing some 500,000 yen ($4,000) more than an Estima with a gasoline engine.

Toyota Camry shines

ARLINGTON, Virginia—Nine midsize cars vetted for crash-worthiness in 40 mph frontal collisions earned top marks in a survey by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released Tuesday.

The Institute reported that the vehicle structures of the 2002 model year cars absorbed most of the impact of the crash, preserving the space around the driver dummy.

The results showed that automakers had "taken steps to improve vehicle structure," said the Institute's Russ Radar, noting that it was the first time in the seven years that researchers have been evaluating cars to see how they held up to this type of oblique frontal crash that all the vehicles surveyed had got the highest grade.

Radar singled out one of the most inexpensive of the nine—the Toyota Camry—for praise, noting that it sustained little or no damage to the passenger compartment during the collision, and that the windshield didn't crack. *AFP*

Mitsui Mutual gets advice

TOKYO—Mitsui Mutual Life Insurance Co. on Tuesday signed an agreement with American Express Financial Corp. (AEFC) to provide financial advisory services to Japanese customers, the pair said.

AEFC will sell its financial services arm in Japan—American Express Financial Advisors Japan—to the Japanese insurer for an undisclosed amount.

Mitsui Mutual will also license know-how from its US partner.

"We decided this would be the best way to give value to our customers," said an AEFC spokesperson.

Through the agreement, AEFC and Mitsui Mutual aim to bring a US model of financial advisory services to consumers in Japan. *AFP*

A HUGE ball lies on a "crushed" car in front of a building featuring Japanese team player Alessandro Santos in Tokyo's Shibuya district. Adidas Japan unveiled the advertisement commemorating the upcoming FIFA World Cup Finals.

REUTERS

Predatory Aussie groups list, eye prey

SYDNEY—Globalization has created a battleground for Australia's once sleepy agricultural marketing boards and bulk grain handlers, triggering a rush of stock exchange listings and get-big-quick mergers.

The past year or so has spawned two listings from the sector on the Australian Stock Exchange, a queue of hopefuls jostling to float, a rash of mergers and global grains giants moving more strongly into the heavily protected market.

"The hardest part is trying to pin down who the (survivors) will actually be," said industry consultant Alan Winney, a former executive at monopoly wheat exporter AWB Ltd.

State-owned marketing boards and farmer co-operative handling groups were set up in past decades to help sell Australia's massive grain crops.

But government efforts to foster competition led to deregulation of many of the boards, which then started to compete aggressively against each other to find new products and markets.

Acquisitions and the A$150-million collapse of the NSW Grains Board have already cut the number of players from 15 in the 1980s to six, and industry leaders expect just four big players to survive by 2005.

Dominant player AWB will survive, along with a single merged group from Western Australia, which produces 40 percent of Australia's grains, industry experts said.

But Winney said single-state, single-grain operators were vulnerable, leaving four groups to vie for two remaining spots.

One such group, ABB Grain Ltd., last week became the latest to unveil plans to list, saying it aimed to raise about A$33 million in an initial public offer in July and was looking for acquisitions in Australia, the Middle East and Asia.

ABB, the former Australian Barley Board, operates a barley export monopoly from the main producing state of South Australia, but lost a similar monopoly last year in adjoining Victoria state as part of a competition shake-up.

On listing it will join AWB and New South Wales grains handling and trading group GrainCorp Ltd. on the bourse.

John Paterson, corporate finance managing director at leading broker JB Were, adviser and lead manager for the ABB float, sees a still-hungry market for agricultural shares.

"The market's quite keen to have exposures in this sector," he said, pointing to a steady rise in the share price of AWB to A$4.35 on Wednesday from around A$3.30 soon after listing last September, for a market capitalization of A$1.2 billion.

Also in the queue to list this year are the two remaining players, Queensland-based bulk handler, trader and exporter Grainco Ltd. and South Australian handler Ausbulk Ltd. *Reuters*

Japan entering cyclical rebound, says BOJ member

NAGANO, Japan—A Bank of Japan policy board member said Wednesday Japan's economy was starting to recover but the financial sector posed a risk.

"Although there are various risk factors, it appears Japan's economy is entering a cyclical recovery phase," board member Miyako Suda told business leaders in the regional town of Nagano.

Japan is showing signs of pulling out of its third recession in a decade. Both the government and central bank have upgraded their view of the convalescing economy for three straight months.

Suda said financial sector weakness was the biggest domestic downside risk, and that the BOJ had actively provided funds to the money market to prevent instability stemming from lack of liquidity and to avert a sudden credit crunch.

The BOJ sees Japan's potential growth rate as between one and 2 percent, she said. The growth is relatively low compared with other leading industrial nations.

Japan needs to raise the rate by boosting productivity, which can only be achieved through structural reform, she added.

Suda, 54, a former economics professor who joined the policy board in April last year for a five-year term, also said it was difficult to reconcile current growth in money supply of around 3 percent, as defined by M2+CD, with one percent potential growth.

Saying that funds were being shifted from bank deposits to assets such as Japanese government bonds and trust funds, she added: "When fund shifts are occurring as they are now in the financial markets, changes in the money supply become detached from macroeconomic activity." *Reuters*

US directors favor CEO-chairman split

NEW YORK—Two-thirds of directors favor splitting the roles of chair and chief executive officer as a way to reform the way US corporations operate and prevent business collapses like Enron's, a survey said on Tuesday.

And more than 70 percent of directors surveyed said they would like to see companies appoint a lead director, who is independent of management.

The responses from 180 US directors, who sit on the boards of more than 500 US companies, were part of a survey carried out by management consultants McKinsey & Co. on corporate governance.

Asked if the current system needed improving, 50 percent of directors said it needed some improvement, while 25 percent said it needed serious improvement.

Among specific suggestions, 74 percent said a CEO's liability for accuracy of accounts should be increased, while 73 percent called for an increase in an audit committee's liability for risk.

Seventy-two percent of the directors were in favor of a lead director and 69 percent would like to see the CEO and chair positions split—a major change, as traditionally the two jobs are held by the same person in corporate America.

Of the 30 large companies that make up the Dow Jones Industrial Average, only eight have split functions.

The bankruptcy filing of Enron Corp. last December—the biggest in US history—was partly blamed on the board's weak oversight of senior executives at the Houston-based energy company. The collapse of the former Wall Street darling has fueled a call for reform. *Reuters*

Once labeled as outlaws, fund managers ride back as heroes

HONG KONG—Hedge fund managers, once labeled as outlaws dangerous to Asian financial stability, are back, this time hailed as heroes for posting positive results in falling markets and courted by investors around the region.

But while the industry is attracting capital in record volume and dazzling investors with 10-year returns that beat traditional equities by an average of at least 20 percent with only half the volatility, many managers say the hedge fund heyday may be short-lived.

"There is brilliance for a while, but we all move in cycles. It doesn't last forever," said Michael Sofaer, managing director of Sofaer Capital Inc. and the man credited with starting Asia's first hedge fund in 1989.

"Money comes in, returns go down, money goes out. The cycle doesn't really change," Sofaer told Reuters.

The sheer weight of money and the cult status of individual managers is the crux of the problem.

Assets invested in hedged strategies in the Asia-Pacific region outside of Japan jumped 33 percent in 2001 to $16 billion, according to the Bank of Bermuda. Another $2 billion to $5 billion could be raised in Asia in 2002, industry sources say.

Demand for hedge funds far outstrips the capacity of the world's existing alternative investment managers to utilize it as profitably as investors expect, forcing them to keep high cash balances and dilute returns, or close their doors to new money.

Meanwhile, rich reward structures—bonuses of 20 percent of profits on top of annual fees are typical—attract a posse of underskilled new guns for hire, 60 percent of whose funds will fail within five years, according to industry statistics.

The key for investors is to figure out whether they are dealing with speculators, like those blamed for triggering Asia's financial crisis in 1997, or smart money sophisticates.

"A lot of good funds are closed, so are you investing in the best funds, or second tier managers?" said Wolfgang Landl, senior investment manager at Man Investment Products, the world's biggest hedge fund with almost $20 billion under management.

Get it right and investors can make annualized dollar returns of 15.7 percent versus the 11 to 13 percent of US and European stocks, the average return of both asset classes between January 1990 and March 2002, according to ABN-Amro Asset Management.

Consistency on that scale has seen hedge fund assets under management worldwide swell from about $50 billion in 1990 to around $565 billion, as of April 2002.

Singapore and Hong Kong, both extremely wary of the financial market manipulation charges leveled at hedge funds, this year became among the first jurisdictions in the world to permit the secretive offshore firms to sell direct to retail investors.

But this is small change compared to the cash coming from pension funds, among the world's most cautious investors who are increasingly allocating more money to alternative strategies that employ short selling, leverage and arbitrage to boost returns.

Japan's life insurers, whose balance sheets have been shot to pieces by a decade of decline in traditional financial market investments, see hedge funds as saviors.

The 10 biggest life firms had ramped up allocations to around $6 billion by March 2002 from just $700 million in June 1998, huge growth but still less than 0.5 percent of their total assets, according to Tokyo's Alternative Investment Products Co. *Reuters*

Activists target poor countries' 'odious' debts

LONDON—A precedent dating from the 19th century is to be used by debt activists in a new push that they say could result in up to half the $2.4 trillion owed by some of the world's poorest countries being declared illegitimate.

Coinciding with a high-profile trip to Africa by rock star Bono and US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, campaigners hope to build the sort of public pressure that has wrung $34.5 billion in debt relief from rich countries for poor nations.

The doctrine they hope to use, that of "odious debts," originated in 1898 when the United States said the people of Cuba and the United States were not liable to pay debts incurred by Spain in a war with the United States over the island.

Legacy of debts

Campaigners now hope to use the doctrine to re-examine issues such as the legacy of apartheid-era debts in South Africa and loans to Argentina's military junta, which contributed to the country's default on $140 billion of borrowings this year.

Loans for corrupt projects in the Philippines during the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos, debts incurred in 32 years of Suharto rule in Indonesia, Yugoslav debts related to Slobodan Milosevic and debts owed by the Democratic Republic of Congo for Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko might all be classified "odious."

"I would not be surprised to see half developing countries' debt being classified as questionable," said debt campaigner Joseph Hanlon, who is writing a paper on the subject for a Norwegian church group.

The campaign, which will link pressure groups in poor and rich countries, aims to build on the success of the Jubilee movement which put tens of thousands of people on the streets and in just five years pushed debt relief to the top of the political agenda.

International socialism

Crucially, this campaign will target private bank lending by arguing that many banks failed to observe prudential rules they would use in rich nations and pushed loans on poor countries and were either fully aware of the end uses of those loans or willfully negligent not finding out their use.

A study by the Center for International Sustainable Development Law at Canada's McGill University for Canadian churches defines odious debts as "those contracted against the interests of the population of a state, without its consent and with the full awareness of the creditor."

Campaigners like Hanlon argue that private banks have continued to benefit from debt repayments and that it is only fair that they bear their share of debt relief.

"What we have is international socialism for the banks and capitalism for everyone else," Hanlon said.

Unlike Bono's

A prudential system will help both sides, campaigners say, and unlike the "Drop the Debt" campaign fronted by Bono will avoid the problem of countries being labeled deadbeats for repudiating debts by making the role of the banks explicit.

"If the banks are let off the hook, they will do it again," said Patricia Adams of the Canadian advocacy group Probe International.

The main problem for the debt campaigners is that few countries have been willing to make use of the Cuban precedent because of concerns that they would be cut off from aid and investment.

From 1985 to 1995, the height of the Latin American debt crisis, there were no international arbitrations involving the enforcement of a loan of a less developed country debtor and a creditor government or private bank.

Precedents

The McGill study does cite some potential precedents which could be used should a country be willing to take the issue to a court or tribunal.

In 1917, a British court ruled that Costa Rica was not liable for loans made by Royal Bank of Canada for debts incurred by dictator Frederico Tinoco which were used for his personal gain.

There is also a post-World War I ruling that Poland was not liable to repay bonds issued by Germany which were used to forcibly purchase Polish land for German settlement.

Reuters

INDONESIAN brokers talk to each other at the Jakarta Stock Exchange. The Indonesian government said it might sell part of its stake in Bank Niaga through a secondary offering or private placement in the open market if final bids offered were too low. The state agency currently controls around 97 percent of the stock after bailing out Niaga in the late 1990s along with numerous other banks. AFP

World Cup seen as distraction for traders

LONDON—Need to do some business on London's financial markets in the next month? Probably best to choose your moment carefully as many traders will have at least half an eye on the soccer World Cup.

The 32-team tournament kicks off in Japan and South Korea on Friday. Thanks to an eight-hour time difference, many of the games will be played while traders in London's City financial district are, or should be, at their desks.

The earliest matches kick off at 0630 GMT, just half an hour before many London markets open.

"Some might argue that traders and dealers are at their sharpest in the morning. Clearly that is not going to be the case over the next month," said Jim O'Neill, head of global economics research at investment bank Goldman Sachs.

London is home to the $400-billion-a-day foreign exchange market and the Eurobond market, among others.

"Unless there's a nuclear war, there's nothing that's going to distract people from the football, especially any games that are being played during trading hours," said a forex dealer at a US bank.

Banks say their traders will keep their eyes on their work and be ready for business but many acknowledge that the football, and particularly England's games, will limit activity.

On the other hand, spread betting firms expect the World Cup to be a boom time as they offer wagers on anything from the fastest goal to the number of players booked for diving.

Football fever is likely to break out in other dealing rooms across Europe.

Istanbul floor traders say only a lively market would stop them watching games on screens in the bourse cafeteria.

"If the market is busy at that time, even if Turkey is 10-0 up against Brazil, I don't think anyone will be watching," said Murat Ozkaya, secretary general of the Association of Exchange Professionals. Turkey faces Brazil on June 3.

Reuters

G-8 summit to discuss Africa plan

ALBERTA, Canada—Five African leaders and the UN secretary-general have been invited to next month's summit of the eight major industrialized nations to discuss a new plan to help the world's poorest continent—the first time the exclusive G-8 club has opened its annual meeting.

The summit, which will be held in southern Alberta, Canada, will be different in other ways, too, the organizer of the event said at a briefing Tuesday.

At Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's insistence, leaders and protesters will be kept far apart and pomp and ceremony will be kept to a minimum so the participants can enjoy "more face time" in a beautiful isolated setting, said Robert Fowler, who is also Canada's ambassador to Italy.

The annual meetings of the world's richest nations—the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada, along with Russia—have become a magnet for demonstrators and the media.

Even before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Chretien, a veteran of eight G-8 summits, decided to return to the more casual private settings of the original summits that began in 1975 and chose a scenic town in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains called Kananaskis for the June 26 to July 7 meeting.

In contrast to last year's summit in Genoa, Italy, where one delegation had more than 600 people, Fowler said, Canada is "restricting delegations to 25 rooms."

The agenda for the two-day summit is also groundbreaking because the leaders will spend an entire day focusing on one region for the first time: Africa.

At the Genoa summit, the leaders agreed to respond to an initiative by African leaders to bring peace, democracy, and good government to the continent with a plan to promote development and investment. It's called the New Partnership for African Development, or Nepad.

Fowler said the G-8 nations are working from the premise "that 40 years of development assistance in Africa hasn't been enormously successful." The bottom line today is that every indicator in Africa is going backward instead of forward—from life expectancy to school enrollment to clean water, famine and AIDS, he said. *AP*

Environment activists target gold

TORONTO, Canada—What if gold were no longer an object of desire but an object of disgust? What if environmentalists were able to do to the image of the glittering metal what animal rights activists did to the fur coat—paint it as a symbol of cruel and thoughtless vanity, not of brilliant success?

Many environmentalists want just that, but it's not yet an idea whose time has come. At a high-profile mining conference on sustainable development in Toronto this month, which is home to some of the world's biggest gold miners, several proposals were advanced to put an end to gold extraction.

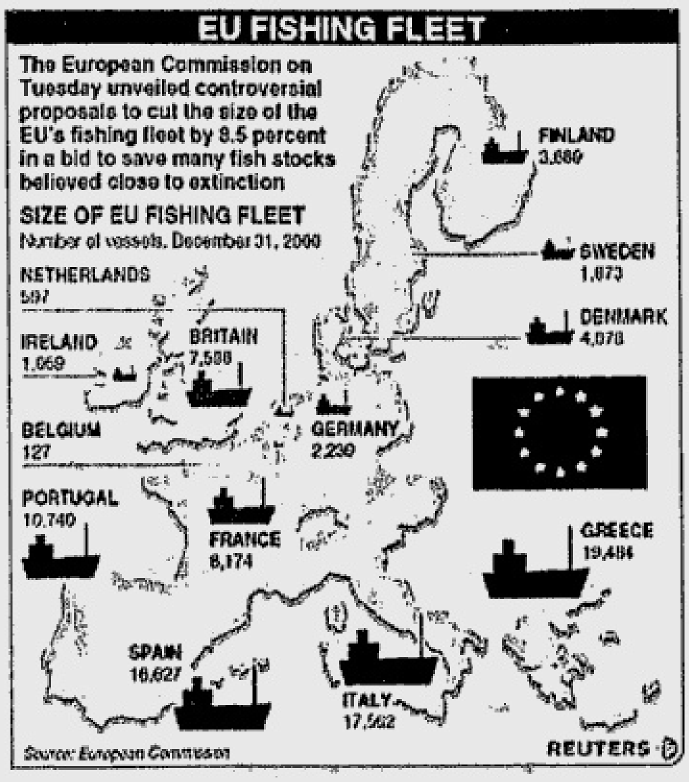
But the anti-mining calls probably won't come to much. The gold-mining industry is healthier than it's been for years, with prices rising and the precious metal in strong demand. Gold prices are way up and probably going higher, analysts say. Spot gold prices were above $320 an ounce in Europe on Friday after starting the year at $279. The stock prices of gold miners are rising apace.

Also, there are hundreds of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs tied up in the gold industry. The metal, once described by renowned economist John Maynard Keynes as a "barbarous relic," is in fact back, showing new life as an investment favorite.

But, some adamantly argue, there is no need to mine more gold.

"Gold mining and cyanide use in gold mining has had an unjustifiable and irrevocable impact on the US West," Stephen D'Esposito of the US Mineral Policy Center, said at the Toronto conference. "How much new gold do we really need?"

Reuters



EU FISHING FLEET

The European Commission on Tuesday unveiled controversial proposals to cut the size of the EU's fishing fleet by 8.5 percent in a bid to save many fish stocks believed close to extinction

SIZE OF EU FISHING FLEET

Number of vessels, December 31, 2000

Source: European Commission

REUTERS

Fiat closes debt deal

TURIN, Italy—Fiat and major Italian banks agreed late Tuesday on a debt restructuring plan and a 3-billion euro ($2.8-billion), three-year convertible bond aimed at pulling Italy's largest industrial group from the brink of crisis.

Fiat, Banca di Roma, IntesaBci and Sanpaolo IMI reached a global agreement to financially support Fiat's strategic and industrial plans, they said in a joint statement.

The agreement was open to Fiat's other main creditor institutions, the statement said. *AFP*

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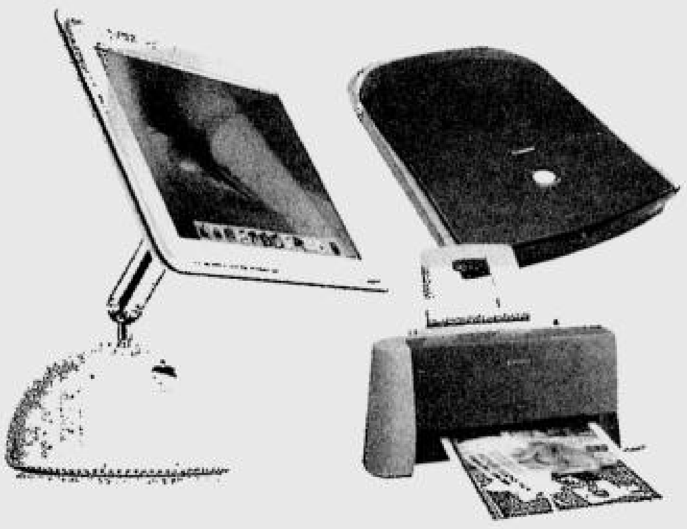

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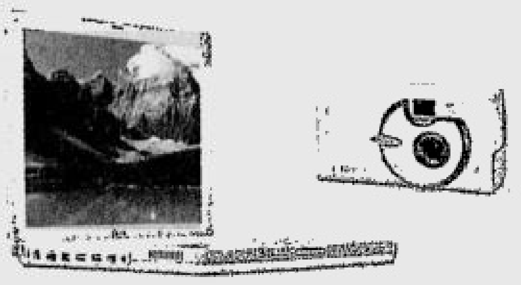

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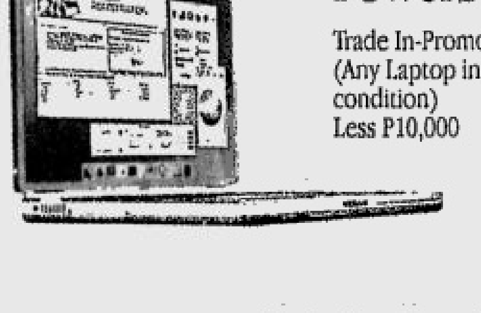

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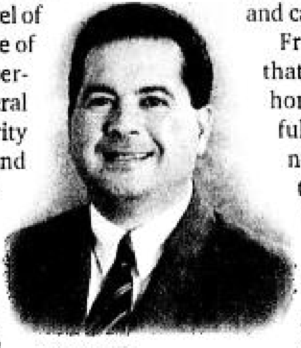
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2090 Series of 2002

The Fraser Experience

HOME away from home. Cliché or not, it aptly describes what all Fraser Place Serviced Residences are. This modern high-rise in the heart of Makati's central business district will change the way you experience serviced residences in the country. The Fraser Way is such a unique and special experience that you will not want to stay in another place.

With long-staying guests in mind, the spacious apartments make for an alternative home among diplomats or business people who crave for the comfort and feel of a real home. The people behind Fraser Place, Forbes Tower, Manila, have thought of the many considerations and difficulties long-staying guests encounter. They have designed every single detail to make them feel important and have that feeling of wanting to come home after a long, grueling day at work.

Fraser Place is a twin-tower development that boasts of a 42-story East Wing and a 31-story West Wing with 150 serviced residences offering generous floor space ranging from 169 to 530 square meters. Guests that sign up for a year can opt to change the unit's design to suit their taste. This option is not offered in any serviced residence in the Philippines.

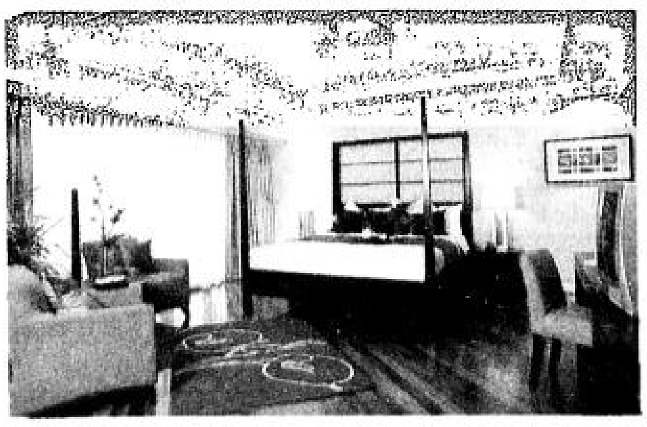

GOMEZ

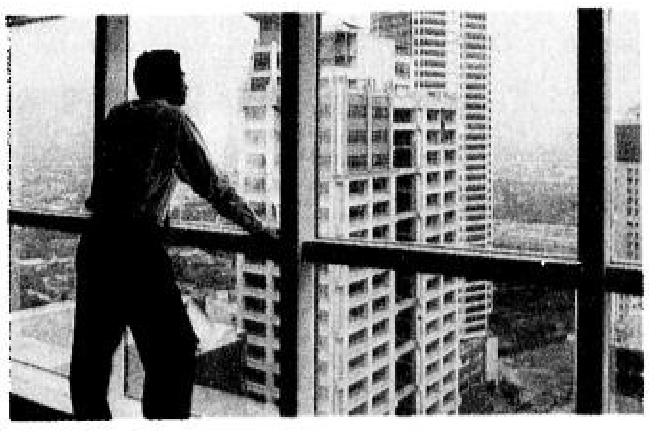
Since it caters mostly to expatriate long-staying guests, Fraser Place is proud of the level of security offered to guests. "Security is one of the best considerations in staying in a serviced residence," said Carlo Gomez, general manager of Fraser Place Manila. Its security features are undoubtedly responsive and proactive. Fraser Place has a dependable video intercom system in every residence to give residents the opportunity to screen callers at the lobby, round-the-clock security, restricted elevator access to apartments using security keycards, smoke detector and water sprinklers, emergency alarm system, emergency exits in every residence with steel-enforced fire-resistant doors leading to escape routes, and CCTVs in public areas and car park.

Fraser Place is proud of the special features that will give its residents a more comfortable home away from home. Each unit boasts of full height glass picture windows, fully furnished with modern home furniture and fixtures in separate living, dining, kitchen, bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and spacious laundry area.

The many special features and services of Fraser Place do not end there. They also have a mini mart to cater to residents' other needs. A complimentary shuttle service is available every hour from 10 am to 8pm that will take residents to Makati's main business, shopping

> Fraser Place is proud of the special features that will give its residents a more comfortable home away from home





PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

POWER TEAM
Putting ideas together and threshing out issues and problems are part of the daily grind of the management team at Fraser Place. General manager Carlo Gomez is seen meeting with his power group – from left Gary Guerrero, chief engineer; Gertie Tarin, executive housekeeper; Angel Pentino, operations manager; Lizanne Tan, director of sales and marketing; Lissa Jafari, director for human resources; and Lily Santos, financial controller.

and entertainment centers.

Personalized service is a main concern of Gomez. "Our staff has been trained to offer assistance whenever approached by a resident or guest. At Fraser Place, every client's requirement is important. We listen to any favors asked and go the extra mile to get them for our clients. This is our way of ensuring continuity and consistency in the level of service given at all times," Gomez says.

Unlike hotels, Fraser Place has a maid service that is available upon the residents' request. To ensure their utmost privacy, residents will not experience being awakened or bothered by housekeeping staff knocking or barging into residents' units.

The nursery and day care center provides a space where residents' children can play and have fun in a safe environment. "We also have a full-time school with Montessori trained teachers and child psychologists," says Gomez.

The family's recreational needs are well taken care of. Residents are free to use the fully equipped gymnasium, sauna, outdoor swimming pool, children's wading pool, Jacuzzi, outdoor sun terraces and barbecue area. Residents can socialize and enjoy activities specially organized for them in these recreational places.

"We are truly proud of the Fraser Place Concept and we are confident that we are offering a service that is an excellent alternative to the usual hotel accommodation or apartment lifestyle," said Gomez.

Fraser Place Serviced Residences Forbes Tower, Manila opens in June 2002 and is located at Valero Street, Salcedo Village in Makati City.

POWER PAIR
Angel Pentino, operations manager of Fraser Place, discusses with general manager Carlo Gomez some operational details at the elegant lobby of the newest serviced residences in town.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

What parents should consider in letting kids handle the wheel

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TEENERS perceive a driver's license as a ticket to freedom. For parents, it's also a day when they can drop driving their children from their list of chores. But parents should not let their teenager get behind the wheel so soon.

Four years ago, the World Health Organization reported that road traffic injuries caused the death of an estimated 1.1 million people, representing the tenth leading cause of death worldwide and accounting for the largest fraction of the global burden of injuries. By the year 2020, it is expected that road traffic crashes will account for the third highest cause of the global burden of disease, jumping from its current ranking of ninth.

Alarmingly, many of these road traffic victims are young adults at their most economically productive age. However, these injuries could have been prevented to a great extent. Crucial risk factors such as driving under the influence of alcohol, speeding, not wearing seatbelts or child restraints, and poor road design and roadway environment are all avoidable accident determinants.

Here in the Philippines, an applicant for a driver's license should be at least 18 years old (although occasionally, the government allows people as young as 16 to secure a learner's permit, provided the applicant has parental consent). But just because their teenager already has the license, doesn't mean parents should let them drive right away.

Understanding the issues

When parents understand the risk factors involved in letting their teenagers get behind the wheel, they can act to improve the situation for their own children. The United States Insurance for Highway Safety gave some pointers parents could consider:

- **Don't rely solely on driving schools.** Although driving schools may be the most convenient way to learn driving skills, it doesn't mean one gets out from it a safer driver. Poor skills aren't always the cause of teen crashes. Their attitudes and decision-making skills matter more. Young people naturally tend to rebel, and peer pressure influences them more than advice from adults. They often think they're immune to harm, which is why they don't use safety belts as much and why they deliberately seek thrills like speeding. Training and education don't change these tendencies.
- **Restrict night driving.** Most nighttime fatal crashes among young drivers occur between 9 p.m. and midnight, so teenagers shouldn't be driving much later than 9 p.m. The problem isn't just that late-night driving requires more skill. Outings late at night tend to be recreational. In these circumstances, even teenagers who usually follow all the rules can be easily distracted or encouraged to take risks.
- **Restrict passengers.** Teen passengers in a vehicle can distract a neophyte driver and/or lead to greater risk-taking. Because young drivers often transport their friends, there's a teen passenger problem as well as a teen driver problem. Almost two of every three teen passenger deaths (62 percent) occur in crashes with a teen driver. While night driving with passengers is particularly lethal, many fatal crashes with teen passengers occur during the day. The best policy for parents is to restrict teen passengers, especially multiple teens, all the time.
- **Supervise practice driving.** Parents should take an active role in helping their teenager learn how to drive. Plan a series of practice sessions in a wide variety of situations, including night driving. Give beginners time to work up to challenges like driving in heavy traffic or on the freeway. Supervised practice should be spread over at least six months and continued even after a teenager graduates from a student's permit to a nonprofessional license.
- **Remember that parents are role models.** New drivers learn a lot by example, so practice safe driving. Teens with crashes and violations often have parents with poor driving records.
- **Require safety belt use.** Parents should not assume that belt use when you're in the car with your teenager means belts will be used all the time, especially when your child is out with peers. Remember that belt use is lower among teenagers than older people. Insist on belts all the time.
- **Prohibit driving after drinking.** Parents should make it clear that it's illegal and highly dangerous for a teenager to drive after drinking alcohol or using any other drug. While alcohol isn't a factor in most crashes of teenage drivers, even small amounts of alcohol are impairing for teens.
- **Choose vehicles for safety, not image.** Teenagers should drive vehicles that reduce their chances of a crash and offer protection in case they do crash. For example, small cars don't offer the best protection in a crash. Avoid cars with performance images that might encourage speeding. Avoid trucks and sport utility vehicles since the smaller ones, especially, are more prone to roll over.

BIÊN BÁO CẤM
2002

THE CLASSROOM, with a capacity of 50 children, is equipped with desks, chairs and road signs. Computers will soon be a familiar sight and will feature traffic games.

Traffic Safety Village trains young motorists

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

2002
Media Program
NO BOUNDARIES

THE DESIGN of the park includes several routes with curved roads that intersect at different points in the village. There will be traffic lights to direct young motorists and pedestrians.

THE AFFAIR, though not related to the United Nations' 10-point plan of action aimed at improving children's lives over the next 10 years, seemed coincidental in its timing and purpose.

While Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh attended a summit of the United Nations vowing to build a "world fit for children" on May 24, Ford Vietnam Limited had also been busy putting youngsters at the driver's seat the day before.

Ford Vietnam held a Road Safety Day at the Traffic Safety Village with a class of 5- to 15-year-old kids. Painting contests, traffic safety tips and traffic sign lessons were held. The company's aim was to improve the traffic safety training program on the choked streets of Hanoi.

Launched and principally sponsored by Ford Vietnam and business partners New York Life International, Microsoft Vietnam, Asia Injury Prevention Foundation and Thong Nhat Park, the $50,000 Safety Village in Thon Nhat Park (Lenin Park in Hanoi) comprises 2,500 square meters of fun areas where children and teeners could ride miniature vehicles—cars, trucks, bikes and even trikes. It is aimed at educating children on such topics as plants, animals, nature and the environment. Ford Motor Co. said that through games and vehicle rides, children would be guided on road safety, proper sign observation and adherence to the rules of the road and be trained on emergency situations. Children are provided tropical helmets during the rides.

Meanwhile, the "Helmets for Kids" project is part of the Safe Vietnam initiative of several companies, embassies and nongovernment organizations. The purpose is to introduce tropical helmets to Vietnam and reduce traffic fatalities.

Roads going to Quezon have become first-class

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IT was a revelation. A pleasant surprise.

I refer to the highway from Manila to Calauag, Quezon. Finally, it is free of holes. The ride has become so smooth that you will fall asleep while you are behind the wheel if you don't watch it.

What used to be an almost seven-hour ride is now down to almost five hours. That's because back then, the highway was always in an utter state of disrepair. Surprise, surprise! If you leave Calauag, Quezon, the hometown of Tomas Morato, at 2 a.m., you'll be in Manila at 6 a.m., or even earlier. The distance is approximately 230 kilometers.

A friend of mine, lawyer Francis Serrano, used to abhor going home to his hometown Libon in Albay "because of the bad roads." These days, Francis goes home at least once a month, sometimes once in two weeks.

"I built a small rest house there and today, every time I go home, I don't feel any body aches anymore," said Francis. "The good roads have made traveling to Bicol a breeze."

* * *

I am surprised that some of Honda's rivals are raising a howl over Honda CR-V's conversion from SUV to AUV. The move reduced by almost P200,000 (or is it P300,000) the vehicle's price.

Honda is not to be blamed. It applied for the conversion and the government granted its petition. To gang up on Honda now is sour-graping.

I'd say Honda's creativity had paid off. That creativity actually benefited the nation's car buffs. Many would now opt to buy the CR-V over cars that offer prices almost similar to the CR-V's price.

So, my advice to Arnel Doria: Just smile. *Inggit lang sila?*

* * *

The classic Monte Carlo street circuit punishes the wayward driver.

Drivers of the Panasonic Toyota Racing learned that the hard way on a day when the team had hoped to add to the points already scored in Australia and Brazil.

Said Ariel de Jesus: "The race demands absolute precision for 78 laps. Unfortunately though, after securing start positions in the top 10 during qualifying, Allan McNish retired after just 15 laps.

The Scot was running in eighth place, right behind teammate Mika Salo, when he made a small mistake at the entry to Sainte Devote, the first corner.

To complete Ariel's report:

"It was very annoying," McNish said, "I was feeling very comfortable, possibly a bit quicker than Mika, but you are not in a situation to do anything about it around this track. Suddenly I just clipped the barrier going in, which pushed me wide and into the tire barrier on the exit. It's hard to explain how annoyed and frustrated you feel at times like that."

Just six laps later, Salo had to make an unscheduled pit stop for tires after the left rear started to lose tread.

"I felt a very strong vibration," he explained. "At first I thought about trying to continue through to my fuel stop, but in the high speed parts of the circuit it was just too dangerous."

The Finn was coming back through the field strongly and took 7th spot after he outbraked Olivier Panis into the harbor front chicane. He made the latest fuel stop of the race, on lap 62, but unfortunately hit the barrier with nine laps to go, at Massenet, and spun backward across the track.

"The brake pedal suddenly went soft and I thought I was going to have a very big shunt, so I actually tried to scrub some speed off against the inside barrier, which was hard enough to actually spin me around," Salo explained. "It's frustrating not to finish the race but the positive thing is that none of the Toyota parts failed!"

A fascinating race was led from start to finish by David Coulthard's McLaren-Mercedes, which finished just a second clear of world champion Michael Schumacher's Ferrari. Ralf Schumacher took third to score another podium finish for the BMW Williams F1 Team.

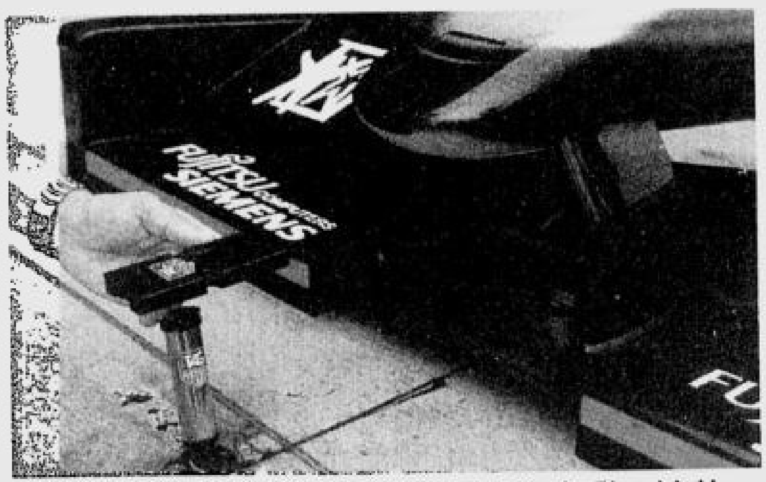
Jarno Trulli scored his first points of the season for Mild Seven Renault F1, while Giancarlo Fisichella's Jordan-Honda and Heinz Harald Frentzen's Arrows-Cosworth completed the points scorers.

Thanks a lot, Ariel. See you around.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **When in doubt, don't overtake. Decisiveness is the key to safe overtaking.**

Timing info vital for F1 race strategies



A VIEW of TAG Heuer transponder (installed inside the F1 car) held over a sensor (embedded in the racetrack pavement).

HOW do you measure the car's blistering speed in Formula One races? How accurate is the time that flashes on your TV screen when watching the race? What's the importance of the timing data to the team, race drivers and thousands of its sports viewers?

TAG Heuer electronic timing manager Jean Campiche holds the most vital information in Formula One Grand Prix. He is the man who can immediately determine whether McLaren driver David Coulthard, Ferrari's Michael Shumacher, BMW Williams' Juan Carlo Montoya have clocked the fastest record in a race. He knows who reaches the finish line first or the distance between the two cars in events of a close tie-up.

Tagged as the "time traveler," Campiche leads a team of technicians, computer and software engineers from around the globe who precisely and accurately time for the world of sports, and make it exciting for the viewing public. They handle crucial timing data using a most sophisticated and innovative technology—the TAG Heuer Timing Technology.

Official timekeeper

TAG Heuer is this year's official timekeeper of the Federation International de l'Automobile (FIA) World Championship. It has been timing Formula One races for over a decade now. The company provides timing information on the 22 F1 racecars, as they zip for two hours at each F1 race, 17 races held each year in 15 different countries. These races are held in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Europe, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, San Marino, Spain and United States.

In earlier days of motor race events, time was kept by race drivers' wives or girlfriends themselves, toting stopwatches. There were instances in some races when disagreements create chaos flared among teams when the time record did not tally. It became an issue in FIA. Says Campiche: "Error has no place in sports. This only shows how precision timing and reliability are important for various world-class sports tournaments."

Current timing system

Campiche, who himself was an athlete bike champion, helped develop the current timing system. He lobbied for the automated timing of the racecars to eliminate the factor of bias and human error in determining time statistics.

Working with TAG Heuer, a 142-year-old Swiss watch company, he developed a revolutionary timing technology that uses transponders, radio emitters, and photocells to clock racecars, which often reach speeds of 200 kilometers an hour.

The system involves mounting tamper-proof transponders on each car and embedding antennas into the racetracks on the start and finish line as well as at other crucial key points in the circuit. Each car has a transponder that emits signals at different frequencies enabling the identity of each car to be known as it passes over an antenna. Sensors are in track at every grid starting points, enabling timekeepers to know instantly when a car has moved ahead of the others, and detect when it has to make a pit stop.

Speed calculation

Campiche elaborates that in calculating speed, two antennas are installed 30 meters apart at each of the three timing points along the track. The first one gives the sector time and the speed. Eight antennas are installed along the track, which captures timing data. Eleven sensors along the pit lane are used to enforce the reduced speed limit. Another 22 sensors along the starting grid indicate when a car overtakes other cars.

Each photocell, transponder and antenna is wired directly to the timing center and assigned a channel identification number in the timing system. The computer at the timing center processes the data into information relevant to the race judges and audience, spews them out as data tables, and distributes them to various monitors around the track.

Obviously, Formula One Grand Prix is not just about the race that takes place on a Sunday, when a car zooms 305 km in less than 90 minutes. From the opening of the track on Friday morning for trials, until the checkered flag comes down on Sunday afternoon, the timekeeping system must work within a thousand parameters. Drivers, engineers and millions of television viewers around the world are no longer content with simply knowing the lap speed. Nowadays, Formula 1 enthusiasts are informed of the time differences between each of the 22 drivers on track, on each of the three sectors of the circuit. Data are dissected, analyzed, compared, compiled and broadcast in real-time. Teams now use the timing information to determine race strategy.

'LIFE CYCLE' IN HANOI

Bikers rule Vietnam roads

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

IF there's anyone who deserves a helmet for a crown, it is the king, or queen, or prince or princess of the Hanoi highways. Any Vietnamese who owns a bike owns the roadways.

Swarming the highways of Hanoi—leaving almost no space even for pedestrians—are droves of motorbikers without helmets and at times with children in tow. With no flashing indicators, bikers in Hanoi cut lumbering buses, trucks and cars to the trepidation and amusement of first-time tourists. These bikes numbered 1.4 million in 2000 in this city alone.

WITH THE INCONVENIENCE of public transport, the rise in private transport is seen with the number of motorbikes on Hanoi's roads up 15 percent and cars up 10 percent.

More motorbikes

The country has more motorbikes per capita—one every 18 people—than any other nation on earth. This was cited in the Asia Times in 1999. Motorcycles and bicycles make up 90 percent of the vehicles with only a few cars, trucks and cyclos (much like our pedicabs that are pedaled by an operator sitting behind).

Viet Nam News reported on Saturday that with the inconvenience of public transport, the rise in private transport was seen with the number of motorbikes on Hanoi's roads up 15 percent and cars up 10 percent. With this in mind, Hanoi authorities are said to be trying to break its citizens' love affair with motorbikes.

The Ha Noi Transport and Public Service Co. wants to complete 28 million passenger journeys this year and 100 million by the end of the decade. More bus routes and improvement of the existing ones are in the works. There are also plans to add 250 new buses to its fleet next month that will take the city's bus fleet close to 500. Each bus can carry between 60 and 80 passengers. Hanoi authorities are also gradually phasing out decrepit vehicles.

Though bikers here aren't speed freaks, most of them follow the 25-kph limit. They have excellent street sense, but they stupefy tourists. For example, while crossing one of the city streets, this reporter's nose was nearly rubbed by a passing biker. In our native lingo, we could say Vietnamese bikers are "*matinding pumina.*"

HANOI authorities are said to be trying to break its citizens' love affair with motorbikes.

Larger vehicles, nevertheless, are characters on their own. Buses honk every minute (our group counted them every time we got into a bus). The honks seemed louder inside the bus than outside it.

Road deaths, injuries

Motorbikes—said to be expressions of the country's national pride and rebelliousness—are also the main cause of traffic accidents and death. The absence of helmets, particularly on city streets, was cited by Asia Times as inevitably contributing to the number of injuries and deaths. Almost all fatalities in motorbike accidents resulted in head injuries. Asia Times quoted Unicef representative Morten Giersing as saying that the epidemic of road deaths and injuries could threaten Vietnam's potential for future social and economic development. For each of the 25 people killed on the road each day in Vietnam, two were permanently disabled and 10 were temporarily disabled to the extent that they could not work.

A survey carried out by the research group Taylor Nelson Sofres last year found only 5 percent of motorbike riders owned helmets and only half of those wore them. The biggest reason was discomfort, closely followed by a "fear of looking stupid."

Racing phenomenon

A new danger in biking has even surfaced. The racing phenomenon in Vietnam is catching on, and this has led to the increased popularity of motorbikes over the past decade. Such races reflect the riding passions of Vietnam's urban youth. Asia Times reported last year that authorities in Vietnam consider these often-unsupervised motorcycle races as a recurring public order headache.

Regardless of helmets, the people of Hanoi see motorbikes as championing the masses. But with nothing on to protect them, these bikers are certainly not "knights in shining armor."

All-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class introduced

THERE are plenty of good reasons to celebrate the arrival in the Philippine marketplace of the all-new Mercedes Benz E-Class.

The special presentation held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, went smoothly for the new breed of cars. Present were auto industry bigwigs led by Commercial Motors Corp. vice president for sales Patrick Lee and DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia regional manager for sales and marketing for passenger cars Richard Venn.

Highlighting the riveting beauty and presence of the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class during the evening affair were the sparkling gems of Bulgari, which were worn by fashion models during the main part of the program—the introduction of the E-Class saloons. Just like Bulgari's creations, the Mercedes-Benz E-Class evokes much passion. The new E-Class is a fusion of sportiness and traditional Mercedes-Benz elegance and performance, emerging as a dynamic, prestigious saloon with a sleek and sporty dash.

The all-new E-Class saloon is the biggest seller in the Mercedes-Benz range. While still reflecting the core Mercedes-Benz values of safety, innovation, comfort, design and individuality, it sets the trend in many fields, notably technology and innovation, beautiful and functional design. The ultra-aerodynamic design of the new E-Class saloons enable them to slice through the wind, making the car faster and more fuel-efficient, and with improved handling characteristics.

Other technical innovations are the active seat ventilation, auxiliary ventilation, infrared reflection and four-zone Thermotronic for better cooling and ventilation; adaptive accelerator pedal or gas pedal that adapts and adjusts engine characteristics accordingly; and Airmatic DC suspension or enhanced air suspension that adjusts springing and damping of car according to road condition, providing a smooth, comfortable ride as well as sharp handling and good body control. Technological innovations also include Bluetooth telephone system with built-in microphone and speakers for hands-free driving; four-link front suspension; multi-function steering wheel; and panoramic sliding sunroof or glass roof that extends from windscreen to rear end for a great view and entry of light if needed.

The new E-Class is also packed with safety features like airbags, belt force limiters and tensioners, Bi-xenon headlamps for the best illumination, ESP (Electronic Stability Program) which prevents skidding, headlamp assist, rain sensor and Sensotronic Brake Control.

Isuzu and the diesel engine

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

FIVE days spent driving the 2002 4x2 Isuzu Trooper merely confirmed my previous review of this SUV. In January 2001, this column ("Isuzu's Smooth Brute: I Can't Believe It's Diesel") praised the Trooper's surprisingly quiet engine, absence of vibrations and harshness.

The 2002 Trooper (P1,497,000) has the same smooth, powerful diesel engine (16-valve 3.0-liter common-rail direct injection DOHC turbocharged with intercooler) delivering 160 HP/3,900 rpm max output and 34 kg.m/2,000 rpm max torque; the same big, formidable body as the 2001 model, the same safety features and luxurious interior. What's new are the billet grille and front bumper, 12-spoke alloy wheels, side stepboards with end caps, sleeker spare tire cover with lock, organic electro luminiscent audio system, auxiliary power socket and gold decals.

The Trooper's engine does not rattle or clatter, thanks to the refinement of common-rail technology. Isuzu's common-rail injection system compresses fuel by about 7 times, creating high fuel injection pressure for the most complete combustion, not to mention more fuel efficiency, more power and less pollution. Many Volkswagen Group as well as Citroen and Peugeot diesel engines already feature common-rail technology and Ford is coming up with its own version.

Japan's first 3.0-liter direct-injection common-rail diesel engine was developed by Isuzu in 1998. This was only one of many trend-setting "firsts" chalked up by Isuzu in its fascinating 68-year history. After the world's first diesel engine was developed in Germany in 1893 by Rudolf Diesel, it was Isuzu's predecessor, Automobile Industries Co. Ltd., that manufactured Japan's first air-cooled diesel engine in 1936 following two years of diesel research. The company, renamed Isuzu Motors Limited in 1949, built Japan's first V8 water-cooled diesel engine in 1950 and in 1956 supplied the first diesel engine to the Japanese expedition in Antartica.

In 1961, Isuzu came out with Japan's first diesel engine (1.9 liter) for passenger cars. It won the 1961 Technological Award of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers. When the second oil crisis hit in 1979, Isuzu was ready with the diesel-fed Gemini passenger car. In 1981, Isuzu introduced the world's first direct-injection diesel engine for light-duty trucks. In the same year, Isuzu produced the world's first ceramic glow plug with high heat resistance and electronic control that eliminated preheating time during start-up of diesel cars and trucks.

Isuzu's production of diesel engines is by no means limited to Japan. Together with the Peugeot-Citroen Group and Volkswagen, Isuzu is now ranked among the world's largest diesel engine manufacturers, producing about 60 diesel engines for various automotive and industrial applications. General Motors, a partner, has placed Isuzu in charge of diesel engine development in the global GM group.

Isuzu's wholly owned subsidiary, ISPOL, in Poland and DMAX Ltd., Isuzu's joint venture with GM in the United States, are linked to each other and to Isuzu's engine production bases in Japan. They provide a diesel supply network spanning Europe, North America and Asia as well as Japan. No other diesel manufacturer has this global production and sales network.

In 1999, ISPOL began producing a 1.7-liter direct injection diesel engine for the Opel Astra and Corsa. As a result, the Astra and Corsa were selected as Germany's best compact and small diesel cars, respectively, by the German magazine Mot in February 2001. Before this, in August 2000, Auto Motor und Sport gave the Isuzu diesel-engined Opel Astra Eco 4 compact car a 5-star rating, the first ever for an Opel vehicle. Last October, ISPOL started supplying 1.7-liter DOHC diesel engines to Honda Motor Co., Ltd. to power Honda compact cars in Europe, where the demand for fuel-efficient, quiet and clean-running diesel cars is growing fast.

In the United States, DMAX Ltd. produces the 6.6-liter diesel engine called the Duramax 6600 that powers the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 2500 HD pickups. In July 2000, a GMC Sierra equipped with the Duramax 6600 engine set a new record in the diesel category of the 78th Pikes Peak Hill Climb race in Colorado Springs. The powerplant has also won awards from Automotive Engineering Magazine, Popular Science and the US publisher of Ward's Auto World and Ward's Engine & Vehicle Technology Update. In February 2001, Motor Trend chose a Duramax 6600-powered Chevrolet Silverado as the 2001 Truck of the Year.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

HYUNDAI Tuscani

Tuscani at Car Option

IT should not come as a surprise if Hyundai, maker of the hottest selling Starex family van, comes up this time with a sports car that promises to smoke all other vehicles in its class.

Welcome the all-new, powerful and classy Hyundai Tuscani. It is equipped with a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder DOHC engine and a six-speed triptronic shifter that can bring you speeding at 100 kph in just over 10 seconds. It also has a premium six speaker audio system, automatic headlight control with sensors, onboard trip computer and dual exhaust system to complete your cruising.

This beauty (although it can be a real beast on the highway), is initially available in samba red at Car Option, dealer of the best cars in the country located on Quezon Avenue (near Delta) in Quezon City.

Safety has always been an integral part in every Hyundai vehicle and Tuscani, like all other fast cars, is equipped with an advance antilock brake system (ABS) with dual-diagonal split-circuit, power-assisted braking system and pressure proportioning valve. The front brake is a floating caliper with pads wear warning device while the rear one is a 14-inch solid disc. Of course, every Tuscani comes with front dual airbags and side airbags to protect the driver and its passengers aside from the three-point force limiter seatbelts.

While it speeds like a racecar, Tuscani offers a smoother ride with an independent MacPherson strut with coil spring anti-roll stabilizer up front and a dual link type with coil spring, antiroll stabilizer at the rear. Feel free to experience the rush of air from the oversized sunroof that opens in a single touch of a button or just snuggle comfortably on the genuine buffalo leather seat.

For sure, reading about it won't give you all the information you want in a choice car.

Take a closer look at the amazing Tuscani at Car Option or better yet, test drive it.

A century of spark plug excellence

By Charles E. Buban

THE REVOLUTIONARY spark plug invented by Robert Bosch 100 years ago, remains one of the most significant breakthroughs in automotive history. Bosch's idea of a spark plug using a high-voltage magneto ignition addresses the glaring deficiency of early ignition systems that were unable to consistently achieve the rapid-fire delivery of that vital spark needed to ignite the air/fuel mixture.

Coupled with advancements in production technology, his spark plug laid a foundation for the rapid increase in automobile production in the ensuing years. As a result, almost everyone could now afford an automobile.

Said Guenther Diehl, president and managing director of Robert Bosch Inc.: "It has been a century but the basic function of the spark plug has not changed significantly. It is still a key engine system component and today, the continuously developing spark plug plays a major role in fuel economy, clean, efficient combustion and the reliable operation of engines and catalytic converters."

Global group

Bosch spark plugs have been in the country since 1929. In 1995 the Bosch German headquarters decided to invest in the Philippines and formed Robert Bosch Inc. "I am happy to announce that Robert Bosch Inc. is now part of Bosch group that produces some 350 million spark plugs a year. In total, Bosch has produced more than 7 billion spark plugs which when laid end to end, would stretch almost 217,500 miles—all the way to the moon!"

Today, Bosch is a $31-billion company with presence in almost 50 countries. From spark plugs it has diversified to other products including automotive equipment, power tools and accessories, thermo-technology, household appliances, communication, automation and packaging machines. Bosch is also the name behind Blaupunkt car audio systems, MICO fuel injection equipment and Zexel Diesel fuel injection equipment.

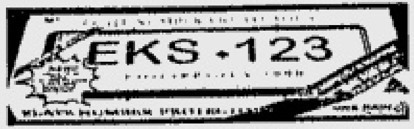
Bosch cooperation with virtually all the major vehicle manufacturers have made the company one of the world's leading original equipment manufacturer and after market suppliers of spark plugs. Many leading carmakers specify Bosch spark plugs as standard equipment. Among them are Audi, BMW, Cadillac, Citroen, Fiat, Daimler-Chrysler, Mitsubishi, Opel, Peugeot, Porsche, Renault, Seat, Skoda, Suzuki, Toyota, Volvo and Volkswagen.

Wide range of products

The range now includes more than 1,250 different models because many modern engines call for their own tailor-made spark plugs. In all, Bosch has developed more than 20,000 different types of spark plugs over the past 100 years.

Bosch's latest and most popular types include:

- Bosch Platinum+4 delivers the most powerful spark you can buy in the market today. It features a revolutionary firing technology that provides multiple spark paths. A unique four-ground electrode design provides optimal access to the air/fuel mixture for the most efficient combustion and a longer performance life.
- Bosch Platinum2 has double the amount of pure platinum as against the Bosch Platinum in its center electrode, providing a longer performance life. Plus, two ground electrodes provide multiple spark paths, which allow the spark to find the most efficient spark path. Unlike conventional air gap spark plugs, Platinum2 uses surface air gap technology. The spark of a Platinum2 first travels over the surface of the insulator nose and then arcs across the air gap to a ground electrode for a longer spark, without increasing the voltage requirement.
- Bosch Platinum Spark Plugs deliver quicker starts, smoother acceleration and top fuel efficiency. Only Bosch Platinum features a pure platinum center electrode that's heat-fused into an extended ceramic insulator to eliminate air gaps, which exist in platinum alloy-tipped plugs. This superior design reaches its self-cleaning temperature faster. And with a lower ignition voltage requirement, Bosch Platinum provides reliable starting in hot and cold weather extremes and provides a more reliable spark at higher RPMs without misfires.



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People, Events & Products

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Labor-management convergence a prelude to industrial peace

THE PHILIPPINE labor scene is rife with scenarios of labor unrest brought about by the economic down trend of the globalized business environment, which has spawned massive retrenchments. Employers are now faced with learned employees who assert their rights, aggressive organized labor and the threat of labor cases filed by employees.

2001 national statistics show that 29,782 labor cases have been filed with the National Labor Relations Commission, with a staggering 623 Strike Notices filed with the Department of Labor and Employment, National Conciliation & Mediation Board; of which 43 major strikes have been unsettled by yearend.

National Management Training and Research Center, headed by executive director Edith S. Bayoneta, brings a fresh approach to maintaining industrial peace and human resource management. A series of seminar forums aims to provide a new dynamic learning curve in maintaining industrial peace and promoting corporate productivity. Business entrepreneurs and human resource practitioners are well advised to attend these seminars as NMTRC seminar-forums highlight labor education and human resource development, giving focus to the tripartite relationship of the employer, the employee and the Department of Labor and Employment.

The Labor Management Convergence slated on June 20 and 27 shall be held at the New World Hotel, Makati City. To grace these forums are high-ranking DOLE officials Undersecretary Reynaldo Ubaldo, director Alex Maraan of the National Capital Region, director Leopoldo De Jesus, NCMB, NCR and director Ricardo Martinez of Region IV. Lending their expertise in the field of labor management and human resource development are Gil Caragayan, senior mediator-conciliator, NCMB, Vivian Fuentes, COLE voluntary arbitrator, and Edith Bayoneta, management labor analyst and management consultant.

Interested parties may call the NMTRC Secretariat at 471-80-35, 47161-00 or e-mail nmtrc@hotmail.com for details. A 50-percent discount awaits the first 100 reserved participants.

1ST ADIDAS 'BRAND STORE'

Adidas Philippines recently awarded its first franchised adidad 'brand store' to Athletes Dragon Company Inc. Shown signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Adidas managing director and president John Alonte and Athletes Dragon Company Inc. president Tessie Lee. Standing, from left, are Adidas Philippines chief finance officer MJ Chavez, marketing director Angelica Suiza and general manager for sales Bing Paras. The first Adidas 'brand store' that will open this year is located at the NE Pacific Mall at Cabanatuan City. It will have its formal opening on June 1.

SKTAI caregiver program

SHARP-Karilagan Training Academy Inc., accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), offers the Caregiver Program. This is one of the courses SKTA is offering. Sharp-Karilagan has produced outstanding graduates who are now holding lucrative positions in different land and sea-based industries. Enrollment is ongoing. Big discounts for early enrollees are offered. Catch the promo "10 percent 4 every 3." SKTA is located at the fifth floor of the Shipping Center Building, 707 A. Soriano Avenue, Intramuros, Manila (in front of Manila Cathedral). Call 527-6418 or 527-1590, or email skta@cfsharp.com

SIPR vows to commit peace to anti-poverty program

THE SOROPTIMIST International Philippines Region (SIPR) launched its gender-based poverty alleviation program during the three-day 18th Biennial Meet May 24 to 26 at the Manila Hotel.

Founded in 1921, Soroptimist International has continued to build the largest global community of women in management and related professions. The Philippine-based network was established in 1966, and since then has advanced significant endeavors to realize SI's core mission and purpose to advance human rights and status of women.

This year's conferential theme "A Brighter Future in Soroptimists' Hands" is a testimony to SI's commitment for uplifting the spiritual, intellectual and material well-being of women and children. A comprehensive focus on anti-poverty program aims to address the major problem affecting them.

One of the program's thrusts is the achievement of peace. Dulce Gozon, SI past president of Caloocan remarks, "The commitment to peace must be comprehensively linked up to the major programs of SI such as economic and social development, education, environment, health, human rights and international goodwill and understanding as initiated and advocated by our governor Tess B. Choa."

As SIPR renews its commitment to peace, Gozon adds, "this year's biennial demands a more heightened awareness and advocacy of peace efforts, which when seriously carried out, will not lack in providence."

Gozon co-chairs the Biennial Conference working committee with Margie Vitug.

GIFT GATE 1ST PARTNER OF MAWF

Gift Gate and the Make-A-Wish Foundation Philippines recently launched the 'Get a Gift, Grant a Wish' program recently at the SM Megamall. As MAWF's first corporate partner, Gift Gate has committed to donate proceeds from the sale of Aloha Kitty Gift Bouquets and other selected merchandise for one year towards making the wishes of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses come true. Shown signing the MOA are (from left) MAWF marketing director Celine Madamba, Gift Gate head Virgie Ramos, MAWF president Philip Pastoral, and MAWF legal counsel Anita Regalado. Witnessing the signing (standing) are MAWF wish search director Karen Cipriano (left) and MAWF membership director Barbie Puzon. Since 1980, MAWF has granted the wishes of over 100,000 children with life-threatening illnesses. Today, it is the largest and most respected wish-granting organization in the world with 23 participating countries spanning five continents. For more information, visit www.bestwish.org or call 817-7387, fax 817-7395, or e-mail wish@bestwish.org.

CULINARY SHOW FLIES SOUTH

RPN-9's innovative culinary show 'How 'bout My Place...', airing every Saturday 9 to 9:30 a.m., went on an exciting trip to shoot 10 full episodes on a remote travel tour to Davao's pride and heritage as a summer special treat and in celebration of the show's third year. 'How 'bout My Place...' is hosted by restaurateur Chef Fernando Aracama. The show featured the tropical pleasures and nature's bounties of The Barcelo Pearl Farm Resort, Davao City's first and only world-class business hotel The Marco Polo Davao, live cooking demos at the SM City Davao. Shown is chef Aracama with the show's producers Butch and Pam Llige at the Marco Polo Davao.

Bits & Clips

'Bansoy' sa Boni

THE BONIFACIO Art Foundation Inc. recently opened to the public Bansoy sa Boni, exhibitions and workshops on miniaturized trees at the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. "Bansoy", a contraction of the phrase "bansot na halamang makahoy" is the art of miniaturizing trees in the Philippine context. The word "bansoy" was coined by sculptor Jerusalino V. Araos. The bansoy espouses a Filipino philosophy of design that reflects our nature, culture, and tradition. Bansoy sa Boni shows the bansoy specimens of Araos and his children Jemil, Liwa, Mira and Julian. Workshops on miniaturizing trees shall be held on May 31, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Building A. Bansoy sa Boni will run until June 30.

Cartoon Network stickers in snacks

JACK 'N JILL and Cartoon Network want you to "Stick 'Em Up!" Collect all 60 sticker designs which feature toontime favorites like the Powerpuff Girls nd Johnny Bravo. Get them free with every bag of Jack 'N Jill Chiz Curls, Mr. Chips, and Roller Coaster until May 31. It's a sticky situation as you pair off, mix-match, and combine the girl power team of Blossom, Bubbles, and Buttercup with Johnny Bravo and his crazy comrades. Start your own sticker collection or form unique sticker collages to decorate your notebooks, bedroom walls, bags, cellphones, or even pencil cases. Buy bigger Jack 'N Jill packs to get bigger stickers.

Cisco's seminar tour hits Cebu, Davao

CISCO Systems, the global networking leader for the Internet, rolls out the Cebu and Davao leg of its Commercial Business Solutions Road Tour targeted at business and technical decision-makers across industries. Focusing on key Internet and networking technologies like local area and wireless networks, security and IP telephony, the free seminar will take place at the Grand Ballroom of the Cebu Marriott Hotel at the Cebu Business Park in Cebu City on May 31 and at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao on June 6. Registration opens at 12:30 p.m., seminar ends at 5 p.m. For inquiries, interested participants can call Irene Ybañez or Anna Rhoda Gonzales at (032)259-9632 or (032)254-6132 in Cebu and (082)222-0363 to 64 in Davao.

MANILA JAYCEES TREAT PATIENTS

Two busloads of leukemic children were recently treated to a day of fun, games and camaraderie at Island Cove Resort, Cavite City. The recovering leukemic and cured leukemics are under the care of the Manila Jaycees project called LIFE (Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment). The activity was made possible with the help of the Gold sponsors Go Tong Foundation Inc., Gotesco Marketing Inc., Ever-Gotesco Malls, and Island Cove Resort. Shown, from left, are Jaycees Romano Kamatigue, Emerson Dee, Emmanuel Ong, Manila JC president Joel Nunez, LIFE chair Dr. Alendry Caviles Jr., project chair Kenneth Go, Jaycees Michael Ng, Rene Gozum, Herbert Tan, Jason Ong, Lawrence See, LIFE secretary Corah Cruz and the children under LIFE.

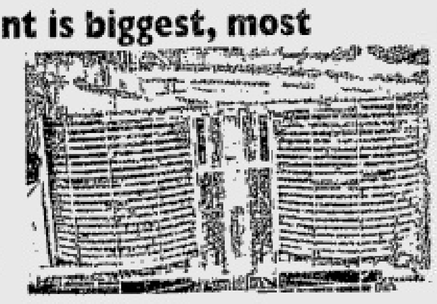
Barbie
Barbie

BARBIE FASHION CAMP AT THE MALLS

Richwell Trading Corp., in cooperation with David's Salon, recently launched Barbie Salon Surprise at Barbie Summer Fashion Camp 2002 held recently at SM Manila and Robinsons Galleria. The show was highlighted with Barbie's revelation of her fashion and beauty secrets as the fashion gurus-cum-camp-trainers talked about the latest fashion trends and proper grooming. Kids also got the chance to walk the ramp with the All Star Fashion Team (Barbie Kiddie Models). All campers were awarded with Summer Camp certificates by Barbie Salon Surprise, as shown. Kids, get ready to join the camp and bring your beauty gadgets. The other show schedule is on June 2 at the SM City Fairview Activity Area. The show is also supported by David's Salon, Goldilocks, Kameraworld, Fucidin, Kiddi Pharmaton, Jack 'N Jill, Berry Knots and Mini Nips, and Clover Chips

Product FILES

Gardenia plant is biggest, most modern



REAL goodness in Gardenia Bread comes from the best ingredients and its state-of-the-art manufacturing bread plant considered the biggest and most modern in the country. Shown are the gigantic twin cooling towers—reaching more than two stories high—churning out fresh Gardenia bread daily. The fully automated bread plant produces thousands of loaves by the hour and makes Gardenia the most prolific bread manufacturer in the country. The plant is computerized and fully automated, handling everything from ingredients measurement to final packaging. Gardenia's manufacturing system ensures that human hands do not touch the ingredients or the bread in progress at any time.

HOME & GARDEN ASIA 2002 LAUNCHED

The Heritage Hotel Manila (THHM) recently sponsored the formal launching of Home & Garden Asia 2002—Lifestyles in the New Age exhibition. Home & Garden Asia 2002 is Asia's premier show on home and garden tools. This will be held on Sept. 19 to 21 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Home & Garden Asia is supported by the US Embassy Commercial Service, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Philippine Horticultural Society, and the Philippine Bonsai Society. Shown from left are Leverage International vice president Robert Sanchez, THHM's director of sales Corinne Zablan and THHM's senior account manager Ethel Tejada.

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF STA. LUCIA (Ilocos Sur), CORP. (RBSLC)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operation will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the designated payoff sites on the dates indicated in the table below. Receiving and processing of claims are scheduled from Monday to Friday during office hours.

Branch	Payoff Site	Duration of Payoff
Sta. Lucia, Head Office and Sta. Cruz Branch	RB of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp. - Head Office located along National Road Brgy. Barangobong, Sta. Lucia Ilocos Sur	May 31, 2002 to June 14, 2002

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur) Corp. is on **October 28, 2003**. After **October 28, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – May 30 & 31, 2002)

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Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites direct Internet Service Providers ISP to a public bidding for the **PROVISION OF 128 kbps or DSL INTERNET SERVICES CONNECTION** on **June 21, 2002** at exactly 2:00 PM Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instructions are available during office hours at the MIS Division, Second Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Request for Clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before **June 7, 2002** at 2:00 PM thru Telephone No. 927-2731 or Fax No. 927-2698.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and Chairman,
Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI -- May 28, 29 & 30, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT IV
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City

May 27, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/RHO 4 to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

A. DRUGS AND MEDICINES
B. MEDICAL SUPPLIES
C. LABORATORY SUPPLIES
D. JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

Pre-Bid Conference: June 10, 2002

DRUGS AND MEDICINES	10:00 AM
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	11:00 AM
LABORATORY SUPPLIES	1:30 PM
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	2:30 PM

Issuance of Bid Documents:
June 10, 2002 to June 20, 2002 - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Submission and Opening of Bids:

DRUGS AND MEDICINES	June 24, 2002 - 10:15 AM
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	June 24, 2002 - 1:30 PM
LABORATORY SUPPLIES	June 26, 2002 - 10:15 AM
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	June 26, 2002 - 1:30 PM

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal forms from the PBAC Secretary, Property and Supply Section, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, after payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00.

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Bidders who failed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on June 10, 2002 are not allowed to attend the Bidding on June 24 and 26, 2002 respectively.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS Bond in the sum of 2.5% of the total bid.

For particulars, interested bidders may contact the PBAC Secretary or call telephone no. 962-9884.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA S. GARGUENA, M.D.**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 30 & June 6, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given on the loss of a Baguio Country Club Stock Certificate No. 1080 of PEDRO MERCADO JOVEN. If no contest is received a new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-May 30, June 6 & 13, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Compostela Valley
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Nabunturan, Compostela Valley

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Provincial Government of Compostela Valley invites interested CONTRACTORS to apply for prequalification and after being prequalified to bid for the following project:

A.) Name of Project: Construction of People's Cultural and Sports Arena Phase 1
B.) Scope of Work: Construction of Foundation, Columns and portion of Superstructure
C.) Required PCAB: Gen. Building Triple A-Medium B
D.) Estimated Project Cost: P24,343,036.73
E.) Source of Funds: Local Funds
F.) Submission of letter of intent: June 10-11, 2002
G.) Distribution of PRE C1 Forms: June 20-21, 2002

Available at PBAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province.

H.) Deadline of submission of accomplished PRE-C 1 Forms at PBAC Secretariat: June 24-25, 2002
I.) Notification of Pre-qualified Contractor: July 2, 2002
J.) Credit Line Commitment: P2,434,303.67
K.) Distribution of Bid Documents: July 9, 2002

Plans, Bid Documents and List of Minimum Equipment requirement of the project are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Planning and Programming Division, Provincial Engineer's Office, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province upon presentation of letter of intent and original copy of contractors' License, Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors (CRC-C) and certified photocopies of these documents for authentication and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00)

L.) Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province will be on July 16, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

Sealed bids will be received by the PBAC until 1:15 o'clock in the afternoon on July 30, 2002 at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province which will be publicly opened at 1:15 PM of the same date in accordance with the requirements of the bid documents.

The Provincial Government of Compostela Valley reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect (formality or technicality) in such bids and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Atty. Anesio M. Ranario, Provincial Administrator (Tel. No. [084] 822-0432, Cel. No. 0919-2730874).

(Sgd.) **JOSE R. CABALLERO**
Governor

(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 4, 2002)

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that your trusted organization of appraisal professionals, hitherto known as Sallmanns Phil.Inc. (SPI), shall be conducting its business operation as **eValue Phils., Inc.** effective 01 June 2002.

This change of our corporate name is in line with the recent buy-out by the President of Sallmanns Phil. Inc. Jess N. Nuqui of the foreign equity interests in SPI, thereby making **eValue Phils., Inc** a 100% Filipino-owned business entity.

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E-mail: evalue@pacific.net.ph Website: www.evalueph.com

PNOC

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC SMALL B in General Engineering to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

**IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF 2.0 KM.
CRITICAL ROAD SECTION AT BGPF
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-086**

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary for the improvement and construction of 2.0 km. Critical road section at Bac-Man Geothermal Production Field, Tubljon, Sorsogon City.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Corcuera) starting May 27, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 10, 2002.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting June 21, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 28, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Complex, PNOC-EDC, Bac-Man Geothermal Production Field, Tublion, Sorsogon City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of July 23, 2002 then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) ESTER R. GUERZON
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI – May 30, 2002)

National Power Corporation
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-008A

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020617-PDSI1120	LUBE OIL FOR VARIOUS BARGES	JUNE 17, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 11	10:00 AM 09:00 AM
PBTR020617-PD	LONG TERM HAULING SERVICES	JUNE 17, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 10	02:00 PM 02:00 PM
PB020619-PDEM1117	ELECTRICAL PARTS OF DALE	JUNE 19, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 13	02:00 PM 09:00 AM
B020619-PDAC1118	VARIOUS SPARTS FOR HITACHI SULZER 16ZV 40/48	JUNE 19, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 11	10:00 AM 02:00 PM
PB020620-PDAC1115	SPARTS FOR NIIGATA-NAPIER TURBOCHARGER, TYPE NA455	JUNE 20, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 14	02:00 PM 09:00 AM
PB020620-PDVB1119	PERKINS ENGINE 3000 MODEL 3012 TAG2	JUNE 20, 2002 PREBID: JUNE 13	10:00 AM 02:00 PM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested starting **JUNE 3, 2002** upon payment of P100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D. and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI - May 30, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

First cops

In early 19th century England, crime control was mostly in the hands of so-called "thief-takers" who were paid for each criminal they apprehended. "No prisoner, no pay" was the name of the game, and it encouraged corruption. In 1829 the British Parliament established an official police force in London with regular pay, blue uniforms, a rattle to call for help, and a billy club or stick labeled "Police Officer." Called bobbies (after Sir Robert "Bobby" Peel, the British politician who conceived the idea), these policemen constituted the world's first modern police force. Their headquarters was located next to a medieval palace called Great Scotland Yard, and though the headquarters was moved the central post of the London police is still known as Scotland Yard.

For the Record. The world's first policewoman, uniformed and with full powers of arrest, was former social worker Mrs. Alice Stebbins Wells, who was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department in 1910. At that time members of the police force were entitled to use their badges as free passes on street-cars when on duty or riding to work. Finding that she was invariably accused by the conductor of misusing her husband's badge, Mrs. Wells drew this to the attention of her superiors and was subsequently issued with "Policewoman's Badge No. 1."

Past Forward. This day in 1431: Joan Arc, 19, was burned at the stake, accused of being a witch, in Rouen, France. The last word she spoke before succumbing to the flames was "Jesus." The peasant maid whose "voices" led her to drive the English from Orleans and put Charles VII on the throne was wounded in battle the year before and captured.

WORD WATCH

Pugon : from the Spanish *fogon*, "cooking stove."

PDI – May 30, 2002

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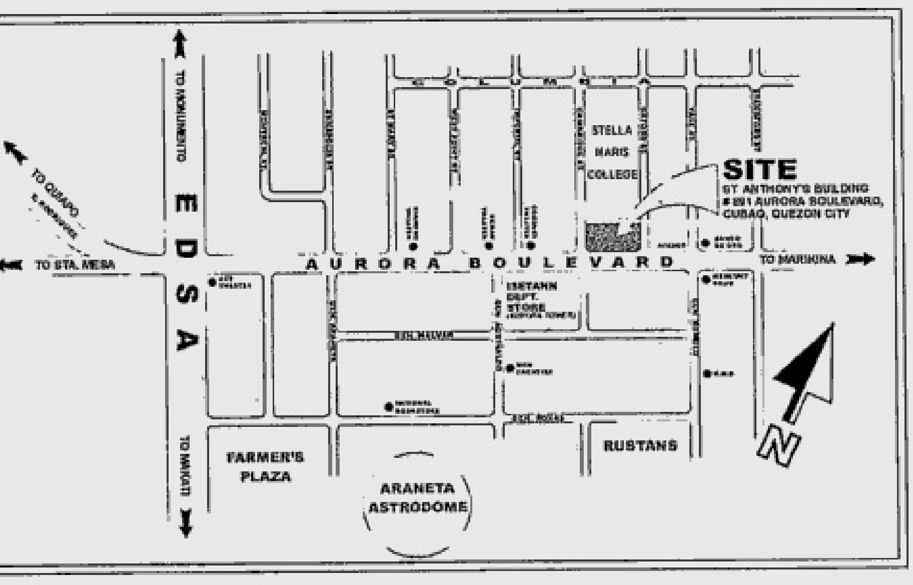

OBITUARIES

"I'm the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Darling Tatay

Melchor Cruz Memoracion

Peacefully returned to God the Lord he loved and served faithfully.
January 6, 1923 - May 28, 2002

Tatay, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your LOVE and GOODNESS will live with us and remain in our hearts forever. Wife **Estela**; children **Maria Norma & Nonong, Boy & Cora, Thelma & Boy, Gloria, Nelia & Abet, Efren & Beth, Edna & Au, Edith & Monching, Anabella & Roger, Lourdes**; grandchildren **Maricris, Valerie, Joy, Sandra, Michael, Wilmark, Abigail, Robert, Carlo, Alex, Cheska, Alexis, Michael, Nanie, Angelica, Rachel, Caren, Christian, C-Jay, Roy, Ryan, Ana, Kiko, Joshua, Jose Luis, Yan-Yan, John Loyd**.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 02, 2002 at the Evergreen Memorial Garden, Pasig City, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Pasig City.

DR. LUIS de los Reyes ACOSTA

May 30, 1908 - May 17, 2002, 93 years old
(Tayug, Pangasinan)

Widow of **Purita Macanas & Manolita Abad** (†); and brother of **Genoveva Bravo** (†), **Leonor Laberinto** (†), **Leandro Acosta** (†), **Felicidad Domingo**, & **Edmund Acosta**; children **Rogelio** (†), **Ronaldo** (†), **Luis Jr.**, **Estrella** (†), **Wilfredo** (†), **Maribel**, & **Merle**; in-laws **Aurea Perez** (†), **Teodora Bagohin**, **Soledad Ramos**, **Genaro Ledesma**, **Armando Rosario**, & **Resty Ilao**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 1, 2002 at Libingan ng mga Bayani at 12:00 nn.

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OBITUARIES

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JOSE O. FOURNIER

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 29, 2002 at the age of 60.

His family **Ching, Chuck, Ting-ting** and **Buster, Michelle** and **Joshua, Jay, Marie, Carlo, Tracy** and **Angel**; brothers, sisters, in-laws and other relatives and friends request the kind readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, Loyola Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Cremation will follow on Saturday, June 1, 2002.

BENJAMIN R. CANLAS, SR.

of Norzagaray, Bulacan

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 23, 2002 at the age of 72.

His loving wife Eufrocina (†); children Boy & Nenette, Leopoldo, Elvie & Tonton, Aura & Erning, Che & Danny (†), Cora, Yoly & Abba, Susan & Roland, Gemma & Norman, Jun-Jun, Baby & Achilles, and Hernan & Baby, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Barangay San Lorenzo Angat HEP, Norzagaray, Bulacan. Interment will be on Saturday, June 1, 2002 after the 8:00 am Mass at Barangay San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Estanislao "Noli" R. Montoya

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ
on May 28, 2002 at the age of 73.

Memorial Services will be held at GCF-East 4th Floor, Manila East Arcade, Taytay, Rizal on May 29, 30 and 31, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

"You will forever be in our hearts"

Herminia Baja – Panlilio

MD; FPOGS; FPCS

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 28, 2002 at the age of 86 yrs. old.

Her beloved husband:

MANUEL VERGARA – PANLILIO, M.D.

Her CHILDREN and their families:

EDGARDO & AIDA EUSEBIO with BOBBIT, KAY (MD), CHOO (MD), IRIS (DMD);
BING (MD) & EDWARD QUIROS (MD) with TINA, DICKY (MD) & EMILY (MD);
GIL & DETTE REYES with JENNIFER, JEFFREY, JOSEPH, GILDA;
MANNY & MARILOU SALVATUS with PEGGY ANN, PAOLO;
BOOTS; **TIPTIP** & WILLIE BANTIGUE with JON, GINGER;
ANN & RAMON RAFAEL with REGINA, LAURA.

Her sisters: NENITA B. TORRIJOS; TERESITA B. LUIS & ELIZA; ADELING B. OROPEZA(+); MARIETTA (+); LYDIA (+); Her brothers: RICARDO (+); LUIS "TITONG" (+)

INVITE YOU TO MINIANG'S PASSAGE TO EVERLASTING LIFE

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Interment details to follow.

———oOo———

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS,
OUR MOTHER WISHED YOUR DONATIONS BE SERVED TO:

THE PHIL. PROV. of the Good Shepherd
Her spiritual journey mates.

BE ASSURED that whatever personal intentions you may have, will FOREVER be offered by our Mother and the Nuns to our ALMIGHTY AND FAITHFUL GOD.

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WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels. 522-8046; 522-9438; 400-5394

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want;
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul."

COL. ADRIANO G. CRUZ (Ret.)
"TOTOY"

Philippine Air Force Flying School Class '55-B

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 28, 2002 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Luz Torres**; children **Mariza** and **Col. Pompeo Limbo**, and **Moppet**; grandchildren **Peaches** and **Monik Limbo**; brother **Cipriano**; sisters **Salome, Adriana, Nieves,** and **Susan Alix**; brother-in-law **Vic Alix**; sisters-in-law **Fermina Cruz, Francisca Cruz, Lydia S. Torres, Leonora T. Baltazar**, and **Bernarda "Betty" S. Torres** request the readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Eucharist Parish Church, Moonwalk Village, Parañaque City.

He will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, 02 June 2002.

"Our Lord God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts."

ARIANNE MARIJA "ARI"
MILLA SIDDAYAO

Now peacefully rest in the wishful Grace
of the goodness of the Lord
on the 29th of May 2002 at the age of 11.

Her parents **Antonio-Marie** and **Ma. Victoria**; sisters **Vicka Marie** and **Mariecruz**; brother **Antonio-Marie II**; grandparents, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Marlene Gonzales Abola

Died last May 25, 2002 in the Grace of the Lord.

Her family: husband **Ramon**; daughter **Anna Cristina**; sons **Javier Franco, Jose Paolo** and **Ramon Miguel**; brothers **Josue** and **Augusto**, and their families;

Asks for prayers and is thankful for the love that she exemplified,
for the beauty she led us all to see and believe in, and for her strength
that will continually bring all of us closer to each other.

Her remains lie in state at the Santa Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road. She will be buried on Sunday, June 2, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after a funeral Mass at 2:00 PM.

Energy dep't seeks early 'open access'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy and a group of electronics firms yesterday expressed support for calls seeking the early implementation of "open access" in the power industry.

"Open access" means opening up the franchise areas of distribution utilities and electric cooperatives to other suppliers.

"The accelerated open access will give electricity consumers choices on where to buy from," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a statement.

Perez said draft bills pending in the House of Representatives called for the implementation of open access as early as June 2003.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, open access should be implemented not later than June 2004 and only if the following conditions are met:

- Establishment of a wholesale electricity spot market.
- Approval of unbundled transmission and distribution rates.
- Start of removing cross subsidies.
- Privatization of at least 70 percent of the National Power Corp.'s generating assets in Luzon and Visayas.
- Transfer of Napocor's supply contracts to independent power producers' administrators.

The House bills get rid of the last three conditions.

Perez noted that the first two conditions were expected to be met within the year.

The Energy Regulatory Commission is scheduled to decide on the unbundled rate petitions of 140 distributors on June 26.

Perez earlier said a wholesale electricity spot market should be operational by year's end.

In a statement, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. said the early implementation of open access would reduce its members' costs of doing business.

Seipi is the largest organization of foreign and local electronics firms.

Seipi executive director Ernie Santiago said, "Open access would allow our members to choose the cheapest and most efficient supply."

He noted that one of the major concerns of the semiconductor industry was the high cost of power, which accounted for 10 to 20 percent of their costs.

The average monthly consumption of a medium-sized electronics firm usually amounts to P5 million to P10 million, he said.

Shipping firms seek 'clear national maritime policy'

A COALITION of organizations with shipping operations here and abroad is asking the government to come up with a "clear national maritime policy" so that the Philippine maritime sector can better compete with rivals in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a study, the Maritime Industry Cluster said the country's laws government the local shipping industry would have to be amended, especially on the matter of incentives and funds borrowing rights.

It offered the following suggestions:

- Renewal and amendment of certain provisions of Republic Act No. 7471, or the Philippine Overseas Shipping Development Act, which expires this month.
- Enactment of an "Overseas Shipping Act" that will contain an overall strategy for the overseas shipping industry.
- Amendment of the Philippine Ship Mortgage Law to allow local shipping firms to borrow money from foreign banks.
- Enactment of a "Ship Management Incentives Act" that will contain certain incentives that can lure ship management companies to conduct businesses here.
- Review of existing requirements of various government agencies to eliminate redundancies and increase efficiency when applying for certain permits.

The group said RA 7471 provided incentives for overseas shipping lines, including exemptions from import duties and taxes for fuel, vessel spare parts and equipment. *Abigail L. Ho*

BSP eases stand on bank auditors

By Clarissa S. Batino

REYES

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has taken a more flexible stand on its plan to rotate the external auditors of the country's commercial banks every three years.

In an interview yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board wanted a longer rotation period and for the changes to affect either the accounting firm or just the partner assigned to a particular account.

"The board prefers a five-year rotation, not three years. The preference is to rotate just the partners, not necessarily the accounting firm, or we can give banks a choice," he said.

Reyes said the central bank was still keen on instituting policies to prevent audit-related abuses or fraud and ensure that accounting integrity would be preserved in light of recent controversies involving bankrupt US energy firm Enron Corp.

The Monetary Board was concerned that requiring banks to change their auditors every three years would just be more problematic instead of advantageous, Reyes said.

Problems with adjustments in accounting practices may get more banks in trouble instead of leading them to maintain a prudent auditing stance, he added.

"The Board is weighing the pros and cons of having this policy," he said.

Reyes said the central bank's plan to conclude a deal with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission on a joint examination of the financial statements of banks could supplement a less stringent regulation of external auditors.

This planned memorandum of agreement set to be signed within the year is expected to pave the way for a joint examination, sharing of information, and eventual aligning of regulatory policies, according to Reyes.

"We want to integrate some of the policies, and we want this collaborative effort forged within the year. The SEC and the Insurance Commission agree, in principle, to the plan," he said.

2 provinces, Visayas declared FMD-free areas

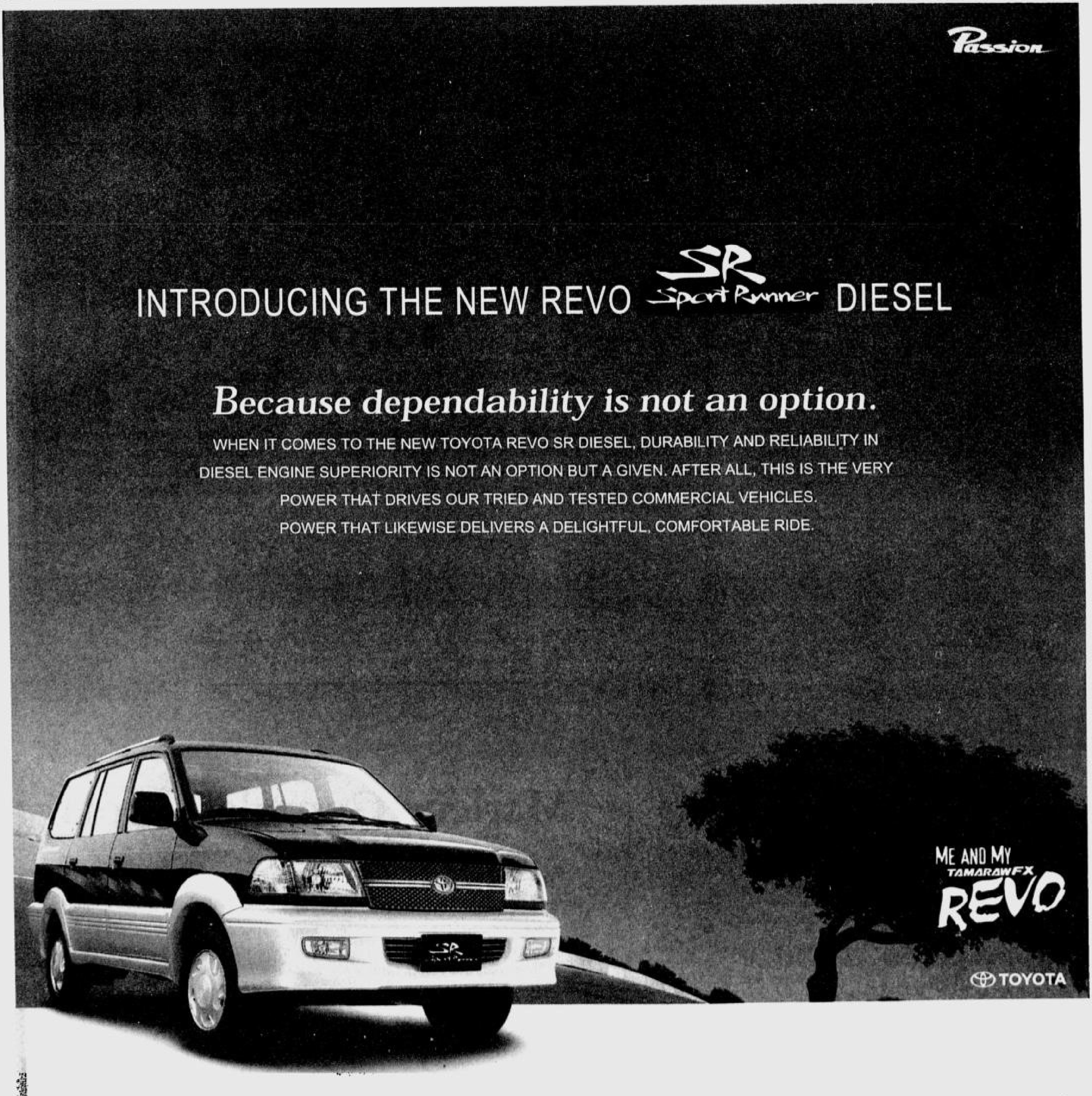
THE WORLD Trade Organization's animal health committee has formally certified the provinces of Masbate, Palawan and the Visayas Islands as free from the foot-and-mouth disease.

The certification, conferred by the WTO during a meeting in Paris, means the Philippines may export meat products from Masbate, Palawan and the Visayas.

The National FMD Task Force submitted an application for a new certification to the WTO's animal health committee in December.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the 158 member countries of the WTO evaluated the Philippines' application in January and did not object to a new certification.

Swine raisers, meanwhile, have raised concerns over the influx of Indian carabeef that, they say, affects their local expansion program and sales. *Christine A. Gaylican*



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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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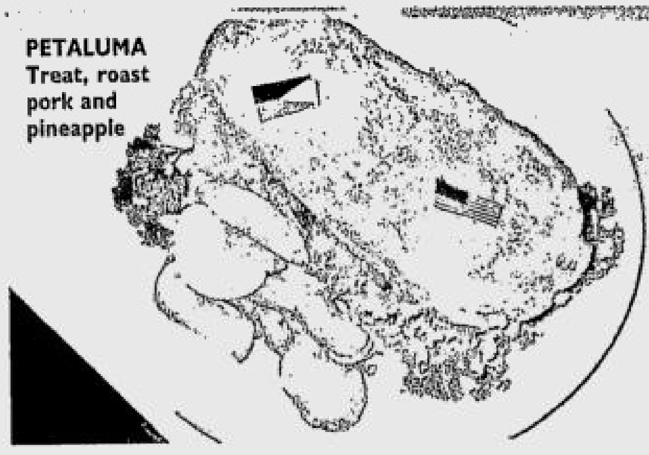
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



PETALUMA Treat, roast pork and pineapple

The humble sandwich comes of age

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

BY DEFINITION, to "sandwich" is to locate something in between two similar things, e.g. a working day between two holidays; a graduate program conducted in two universities (the graduate student presumably

THE HUMBLE/ p.C3

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Café at the Podium gives you the crepes

THE BRIGHT and colorful interiors of Café Breton

TASTEMAKERS

THE BEST reason for going to Café Breton at G/L The Podium is its crepes. Toni and Mariela Cancio serve two types of crepes at their restaurant—the white crepe, made of white flour; and the *galette*, a very traditional Breton crepe made of buckwheat flour used for savory dishes. Among Café Breton's best-selling *galettes* are Galette Breton, spinach and shrimps sautéed with crab meat, fresh cream and cheese; Galette Paysanne, stuffed with a whole Hungarian sausage, onions, egg, asparagus and mushroom; and Galette Don Quixote, filled with *chorizo*, ham, tomato and cream mozzarella. Café Breton's dessert crepes include, among others, Fantastic Pinay, filled with mango, nutella and whipped cream; La Pinay, mango, vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce; Blueberries and Cream, blueberries, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream. Café Breton is also known for its fine coffee, a deep dark blend very much like those savored by Europeans.

CAFÉ Breton's Toni Cancio and wife Mariela

EXECUTIVES AT WORK

Cinnabon chief operations officer Jean Pierre Etroit (left), Rick Golum, from AFC-Cinnabon's mother company in the United States, and Rene Santos, Cinnabon president, go hands-on and give you six choices: Classic Cinnabon, Chocobon, Pecanbon, Applebon and Cinnamon Stix. Cinnabon's cinnamon rolls are made only from the finest and freshest ingredients, like the legendary makara cinnamon that is found only in the high mountains of Indonesia. Newest outlet is at 2/L The Podium.

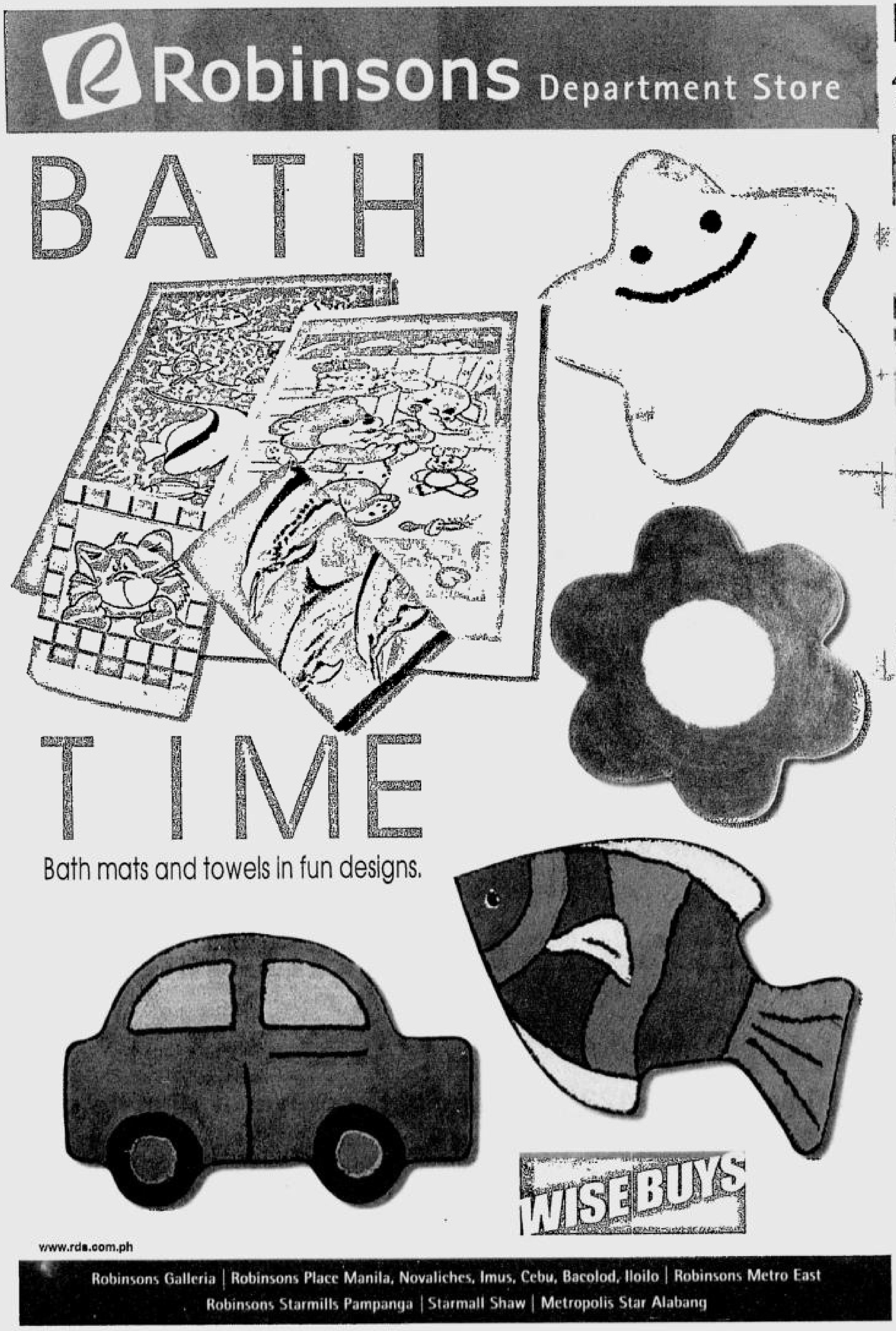
Successful series

MAKATI Shangri-La's Inagiku Restaurant and Northwest Airlines concluded a successful five-series cooking class and demonstration recently presided by the restaurant's Japanese executive chef Kimito Katagiri. The well-attended event taught participants how to prepare specialties such as sushi, sashimi, tempura, shabu-shabu and teppanyaki, supervised by one of the country's top Japanese chefs. At the conclusion of the program, class members Judy Ching and Jean Yao won roundtrip tickets to Nagoya Japan courtesy of Northwest Airlines.

NORTHWEST Airline's HR manager Ceazar T. Veneracion and Makati Shangri-La's food and beverage director Krister Svennson (second and third from left, respectively) at the class' graduation ceremony with Northwest Airline's public relations and events coordinator Tani Lloren (left) and Makati Shangri-La's director of communications Joy Wassmer.

SOFT DRINK COMPANY SPONSORS FOOD/BEVERAGE EXPO

Cosmos Bottling Corp., makers of Sarsi, is among the sponsors of the 4th International Food & Beverage Exposition to be held at the World Trade Center on June 26-29. Present during the MOA signing between Time Foundation Inc. (TFI) and Fairs & More Inc. (FMI), organizers of the international event, and Cosmos Bottling Corp., are, from left, TFI board engineer Rodulfo L. Tablante, TFI chair engineer Cesar L. Lim, SMC VP director for corporate sales Roberto N. Huang, Cosmos Bottling Corp. general manager Hector Guballa, and FMI project director Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian. Call 687-0654, 845-1324 or log on to www.foodandbeverageexpo.com.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The humble sandwich comes of age

From page C1

playing the filling in between). Most frequently, it is a slice, filling, or chunk of food served between two pieces of bread—French (a sub), white, rye, bun, etc. Or a variant: only one piece of bread (an open-face sandwich), or just one paper-thin slice, rolled up as for a British high tea.

The origin of the name we know to have been the Earl of Sandwich (d. 1792), but the present reality has wandered, expanded, developed, taken off, flown high in multicultural ways.

The humblest sandwiches of my personal experience were the cheese-pimiento and shredded chicken with mayonnaise that we made in high school and college for all occasions: class parties, picnics, meetings, *meriendas*. They were frugal with cheese or chicken, unbuttered even, skimpily filled. When mothers and teachers were involved, they became a bit more hearty.

I realized how versatile sandwiches could be when they were made by elders and professionals. We *colegialas* dreamed of the chicken-asparagus sandwiches of Milky Way; the *adobo* flying saucer of the Aristocrat, and its exotic Suzy Wong; the hamburgers of Campus Drugstore near our campus; the foot-long hotdogs of the Brown Derby; the roast beef sandwich of Taza de Oro.

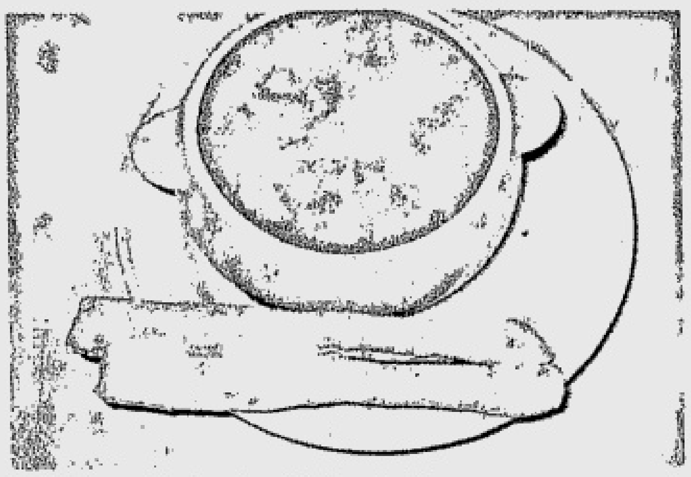
Young married couples (with low budgets) often gave sandwich parties: burgers, chicken salad, tuna fish salad, slices of ham and other cold cuts, crisp bacon, etc.: a variety of breads (buns, rolls, slices), spreads (butter, margarine, mustard, ketchup); and relishes (pickles sweet and sour; sliced and diced).

In the US, experience at drugstore counters and delicatessens was like a graduate course: charbroiled burgers with toppings; many thin layers of pastrami or corned beef on rye; egg salad bulging out of white bread; hearty salami, meat loaf, farmer's ham, liverwurst; large juicy Kosher dill pickles out of a barrel, sharp mustards. The sandwiches at the Carnegie Deli one never seemed able to finish on the spot, but had to take at least half home. In England, super-thinly sliced bread is rolled with watercress and cucumber and smoked salmon into delicate tea sandwiches.

Reason for being

Some of these memories one can relieve by visiting the Almon Marina, which boasts of at least 46 kinds of Gourmet Sandwiches. The name comes from two of the partners: Almendras and Montelibano, and the Marina merger came about in 1991. It is a decade old.

One orders by standing at the counter and reading the board overhead, or the framed listing at eye level, or in one's seat, via a miniature menu. One can get distracted by the non-sandwich entries: cold and hot beverages, juices, salads (seafood, potato, fruit and walnut, Nicoise, Caesar's, etc.); appetizers (smoked salmon and smoked *tanguigue* plates, deli platter, quiche Lorraine); Specials



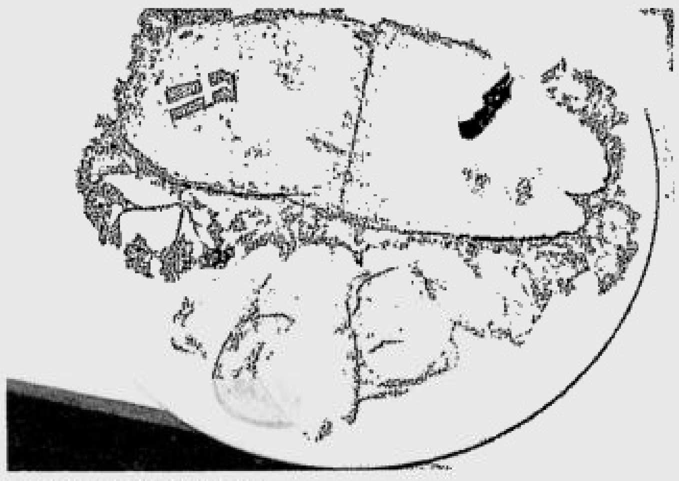
WASHINGTON chowder with bread sticks

(Bacalao à la Vizcaina, Callos, Lasagna, Grilled Sausage); Grill Specials (beef or pork ribs, chicken kebabs, filet mignon, salmon); Roast Chicken, Pasta Specials.

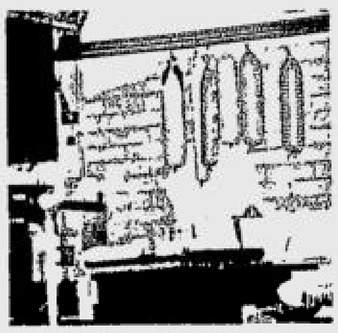
Do hurry to the sandwiches, because that is the restaurants' reason for being. There are now at least eight stores: we were at the one on Park Square II, Ayala Center Terminal, Makati (tel. 893-2168/0008), which, along with the SM Megamall A branch (tel. 634-1297 or 633-6865) offers delivery service.

We tried the soups of the day: chicken and mushroom, Washington Chowder (beans and bacon). Then the sandwiches. Rory Lagdameo, one of the best cooks I know, was not happy with her Avocado Seafood, which came somewhat mushy with mayonnaise, but she expressed approval for the Bruschetta with Apples and Gruyere cheese—hot, sharp, well textured. Tito, remembering childhood treats, tried the Pink Salmon sandwich, and thought a sprinkling of capers and a shade less mayo would have been good.

My Salami Milano was good, sparked by spicy mustard (hot English mustard would have been ideal), but really should not have had the mayo it did. (Mayonnaise on all and sundry is an American inheritance, it seems.) Juliet was happy with her Petaluma Treat of roast pork slices and pineapple. Having learned my lesson, I finally ordered, for everyone to try, the Almon Marina Special: tuna in French bread. No mayonnaise, I specified, figuring that we could add what we wanted, to bind the filling.



SALAMI Milano sandwich



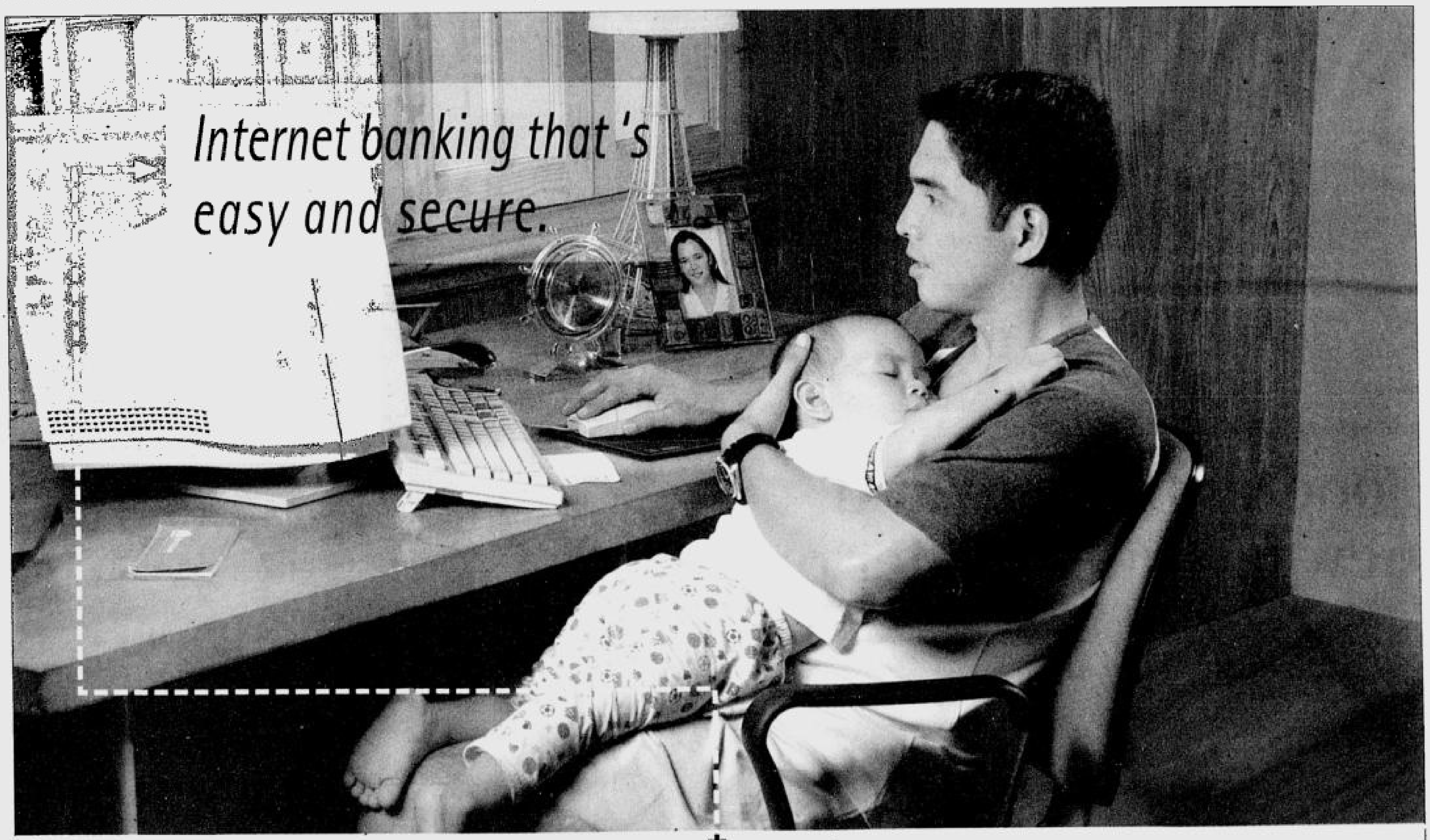
THE SAUSAGE line-up

It was the best thing that day, reminding me of James Villas' "Ode on a Can of Tunas" in Bon Appetit. "Tuna salad almost always demands a little finely chopped celery and sweet pickle, plus black pepper, but beyond those three essentials, additions might include discreet amounts of chopped stuffed olives, hardboiled egg, bell pepper, red onion, chives, fresh dill, avocado or capers. The trick is not to overwhelm the delicate tuna. Great tuna salad can never, never, be bound with that hideous "lite," low-calorie mayonnaise. I use only Hellmann's—about one heaping tablespoon per 6-oz can of tuna—and I may or may not add a crisp leaf of iceberg lettuce.

"Oh yes, the bread. I pile my tuna on soft, plain white—high enough so that the salad can ooze out the sides of the sandwich onto the plate and be eaten with the fingers. And I dare anybody to tell me that's not wonderful eating."

Sandwiches are indeed an adventure and a lifestyle. You can probably find your favorite on the Almon Marina list—just be sure to tell the very pleasant waiters/sandwich-makers to "hold the mayo" or to bring on the sharp mustard to tune the sandwich to the taste in your dreams.

Postscript. Beth Romualdez, cooking teacher and consultant, will be offering Vietnamese, Thai, Mediterranean and Eastern Mediterranean, Indian and Greek cooking lessons from 10 June onwards. Beth teaches her small, limited-edition classes in her home, where her stove and worktable face a curved counter for students. Especially welcome are her old students and their friends. (Inquire by e-mail beth@sims.com.ph or fax 633-2753.)



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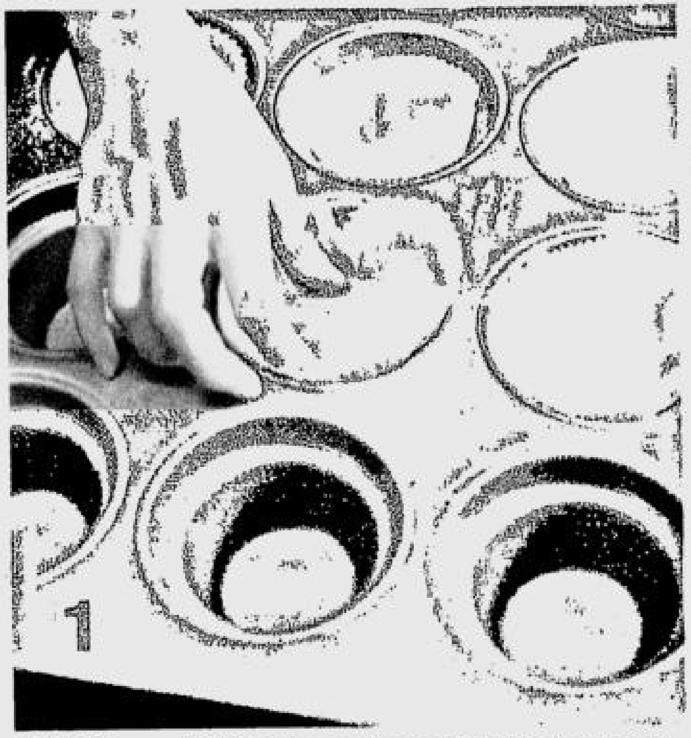
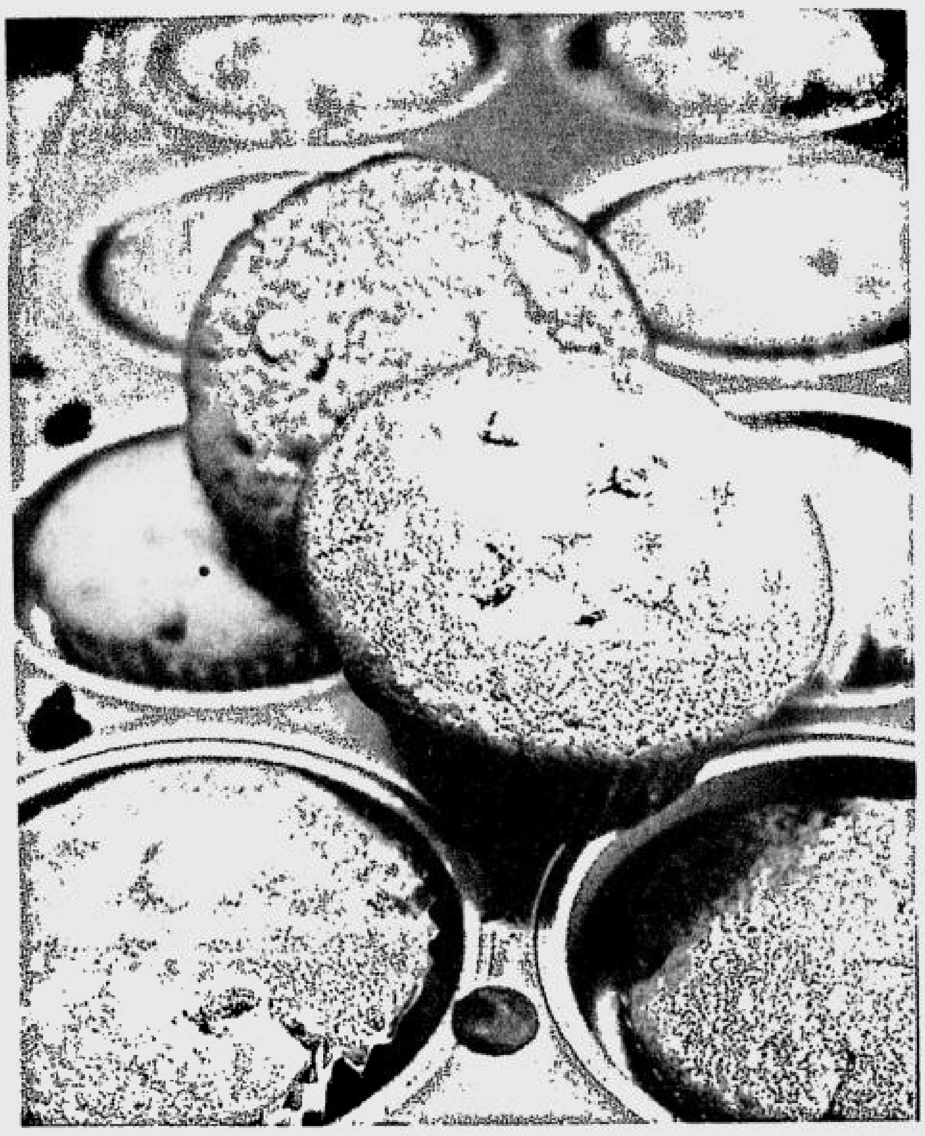


PREHEAT oven to 375°F. Line muffin pans with paper cups. Set aside. Combine choco chips and walnuts. Set aside.

IN AN ELECTRIC mixer with paddle, cream butter and brown sugar, add honey, eggs and vanilla.

MEANWHILE, sift together baking powder, baking soda, flour and wheat bran. Add this into the butter mixture, alternating with milk, cream and lemon. Add in the choco chips and walnuts.

A whole lot of muffin



ALL-TIME favorite chocolate chip muffins

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

STEP BY STEP

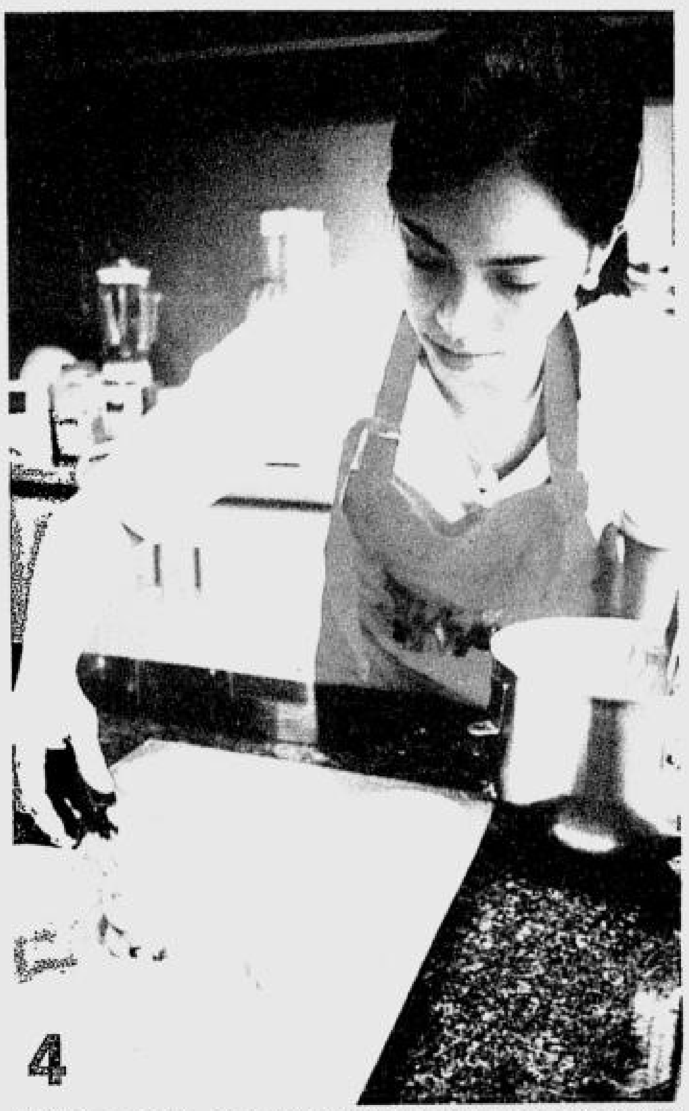
ENCOURAGE the kids to join you in baking these all-time favorite chocolate chip muffins with freshly chopped walnuts. Any kind of nuts will do—hazelnuts, almonds or macademia nuts, whatever is handy. You may also use up to one cup or more of chocolate chips if you like.

Chef Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not (tel. 723-2776) demonstrates easy-to-do moist and delicious muffins. Typically, muffins have a rich, buttery dough. Just a hint of honey and lemon can perk up the flavor, while a generous measure of chopped nuts can make them close to irresistible. Kids will love making these, but we recommend close supervision by an adult.

This recipe yields 12 chocolate chip muffins.

Ingredients
7 oz bittersweet choco chips
4 oz walnuts
5 oz butter
5 oz brown sugar
¼ c + 2 tbsp honey
2 eggs
½ tsp vanilla
1 ½ tsp baking powder
2 tsp baking soda
11 oz bread flour
1 oz wheat bran (optional)
½ tsp lemon
1 c milk
¼ c +2 tbsp cream

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



USING a scooper, scoop batter into the paper cups. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Foodies find old and new favorites under one roof

If you're taking a break from Metro Manila's heat and pollution and heading south, be sure to include a stopover at the Alabang Festival Supermall in your itinerary and check out Chef's Avenue. Located on the mall's third level, Chef's Avenue is a haven for foodies bringing together in one place the culinary styles of old and new names in the restaurant business.

The three-month-old Four Corners Ristorante owned by young entrepreneurs Adolph Ilas and Reina Castillo offers, aside from pasta and pizza (they use only fresh tomatoes for the sauce), steaks, including kangaroo.

Seattle's Best Coffee serves more than just well-loved blends of the popular beverage. It also has freshly baked goodies, light breakfast and lunch specials, including soft-dough *ensaimada* smothered with lots of cheese, pastas, sandwiches, and lasagna.

La Tienda boasts of an authentic Spanish cuisine. It is known for *tapas* or small meals *(calamares fritos, gambas al ajillo, boquerones)*, different types of *paellas (valenciana, marinera, negra)*, hearty soups, and traditional main courses *(lengua estofada, bacalao a la vizcaina, solomillo a la pobre)*, complemented by fine imported Spanish wines.

The Filling Station Diner harks back to the '50s with a menu that includes burger and fries, chili dogs, Thunderbird (southern-style fried chicken), sweet banana bread, The All-American (a slice of apple pie and vanilla ice cream layered in a mug), milkshakes, floats and malts.

Jamaican colors set the mood at the Mystic Grill, whose specialties include freshly grilled or sizzling boneless chicken, pork ribs, shrimps, tenderloin burger steak and fish fillet that go with two sidings and sauce with every order. Appetizers, baked macaroni (chicken, shrimps, clams, sausage and smoked salmon), and desserts complete the vibrant menu.

Athena, the first fine dining restaurant at Chef's Avenue, offers classic British and European dishes, as well as homemade pies. It is also famous for its steaks imported from the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Athena serves fish and chips on Fridays and English lunch on Sundays.

Cravings Café's menu includes pastas, *panini* sandwiches, and soups and salads. Cucina Victoria serves pastas, open-faced sandwiches, and rice dishes.

Other establishments at Chef's Avenue are Padi's Point, which serves grilled food, sizzling appetizers, and a host of lunch specials; Gilligan's Island, whose specialties include kebabs; Pho Bac, a Vietnamese restaurant; Bibimbop, which offers Korean rice toppings; and Shabu-Shabu Bar and Grill, where it is mainly a cook-your-meal affair (hotpot with meat, seafood, fresh vegetables, and noodles).

Meanwhile, Studio 1 continues to draw the crowd with its nightly band entertainment (except Sundays).

LA TIENDA
RESTAURANT LA TIENDA & TAPAS BAR
Enjoy hot & delicious Churros con Chocola
for only

THE BEST *tapas* and *paellas* down south at La Tienda

MYSTIC GRILL

UPBEAT Jamaican colors capture the fun dining ambience at Mystic Grill

SMORGASBORD at Sulo Hotel

Something to quack about at Peking Garden

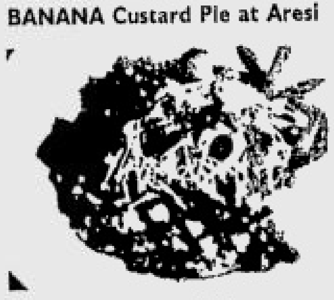
From page C8

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Shang Palace marks the Dragon Boat Festival with rice dumplings. From June 1 to 15, enjoy Guo Cheng Chong, a square-shaped rice dumpling made of glutinous rice and stuffed with flavorful meat, beans and salted eggs; Kan Shui Chong, sweet dumpling made of glutinous rice and stuffed with sweet lotus and is similar to the Filipino suman. Diners may also avail of two family-style Dragon Boat menus good for at least six persons. Call 840-0884.

THE NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE Hotel's Bocarinos restaurant takes you on a gastronomic tour via "Travel to Tuscany" from June 3 to 30. Sample Agnello en Salsa (lamb casserole with parsley), Coniglio alla Cacciatora (hunter's rabbit), Polpettine di Risso al Sugo (rice dumpling with meat sauce), Latte Cotto (spiced milk pudding), Castagnaccio (Chesinut Cake), among other delicious fare for lunch and dinner. Call 811-6888 local 3318.

ARESI Restaurant and Bar on Tomas Morato corner Eugenio Lopez Drive, Quezon City, welcomes one-time Philippine Chef of the Year Steve Scudder and his culinary passions. Chef Scudder brings fresh and more exciting culinary fare to Aresi like Grilled Shiitake Salad, Sesame Seared Sea Bass and Norwegian Salmon Steak. Aresi Restaurant and Bar is open from 7 a.m.-1 a.m. on weekdays and from 7 a.m.-1:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

BANANA Custard Pie at Aresi



ARESI'S Deviled Chicken Italiano

JACK 'n Jill presents Spyros, the corn snack with an attitude. It's made from high-grade corn shaped into crispy three-dimensional cones that are sure to give you an out-of-this-world crunch with every mouthful. Plus, it's the only snack in town with the Jalapeño Cheese flavor that will surely spice up your life!

SARDINES COME IN THREE DELICIOUS FLAVORS

Premium Quality Sardines from Picante—Savor the spicy and mouthwatering flavor of sardines from Picante. Made from premium quality herring from the waters of Dipolog and soaked in corn oil, the sardines are available in thee variations to suit individual tastes: Regular, Portuguese Hot, and Hot & Spicy. The sardines make a healthy and delicious meal on their own or can be added to other foods to enhance their flavors. Aside from sardines, Picante also has bottled *bangus*, tuyo and tuna. Picante sardines are available in supermarkets, groceries and Mercury Drug stores. Call 371-9738 or 372-0668.

PUREFOODS
Beef Loaf
Superior
SERVING SUGGESTION
PUREFOODS HORMEL

Tikman ang bagong sarap!

PUREFOODS BEEF LOAF SUPERIOR

Superior sa Sarap at Sustansya

"Para sa champion na tulad ko, isa lang ang champion sa beef loaf: Ang Bagong Purefoods Beef Loaf Superior.

SIKSIK SA LAMAN. Buong-buo at di madaling madurog.

SIKSIK SA SUSTANSYA. Punung-puno ng protina.

SIKSIK SA SARAP. Gustung-gusto ng aking pamilya."

Pakyaw Na!

MANNY PACQUIAO
World Super Bantamweight Champion

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company

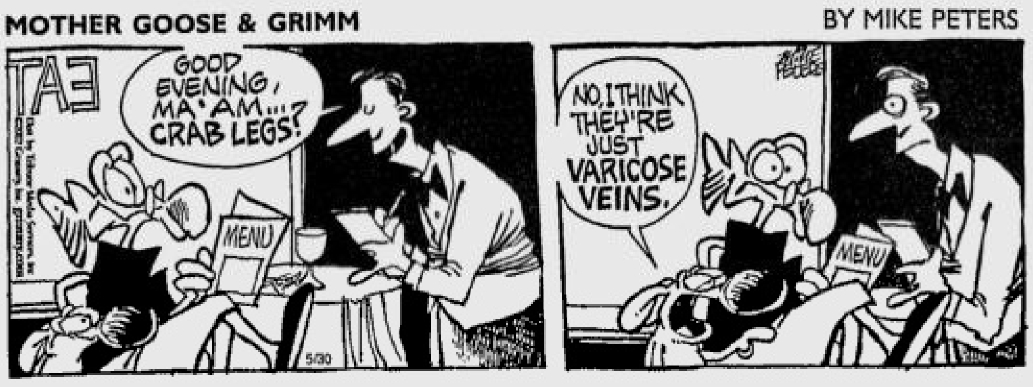
No oil price hike.

With Spring Cooking Oil, you spend less even when the prices go up -- because every liter, gallon or half-gallon costs less than other cooking oil brands. Not only that, Spring Cooking Oil is packed to assure you of product freshness whether in bottles or in Tetra pack.

Spring
COOKING OIL
NO CHOLESTEROL
Spring
COOKING OIL
Spring
COOKING OIL
ring
NG OIL

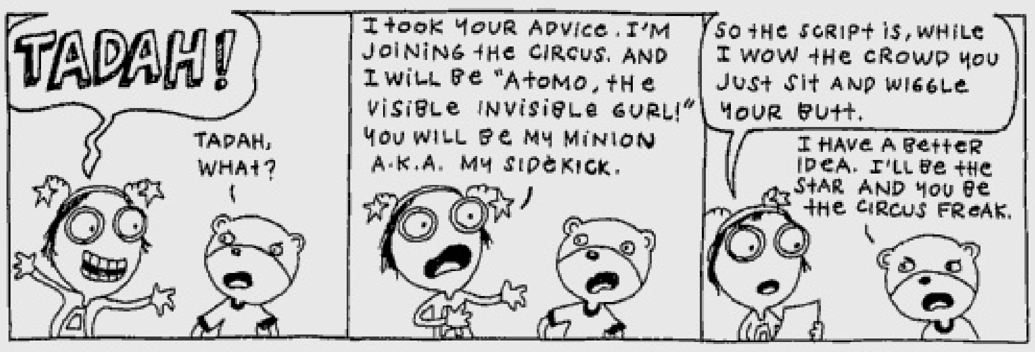
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


EAT
GOOD EVENING, MA'AM...? CRAB LEGS?
MENU
NO, I THINK THEY'RE JUST VARICOSE VEINS.
MENU
5/30

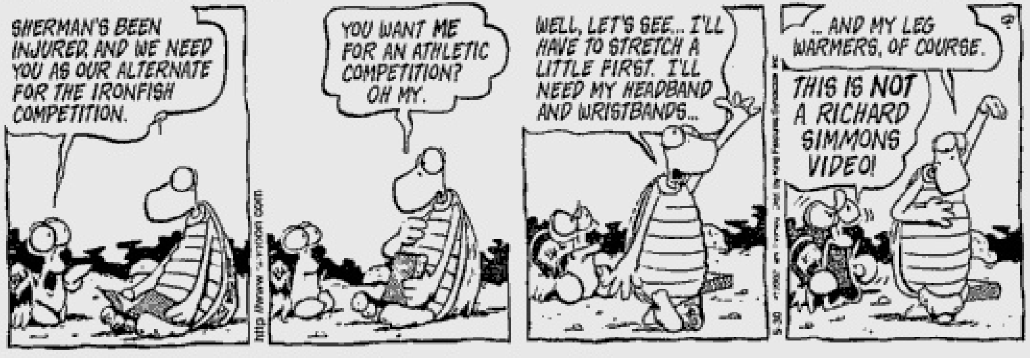
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TADAH!
TADAH, WHAT?
I took your advice. I'm joining the circus. And I will be "Atomo, the visible invisible gurl!" You will be my minion a.k.a. my sidekick.
So the script is, while I wow the crowd you just sit and wiggle your butt.
I have a better idea. I'll be the star and you be the circus freak.

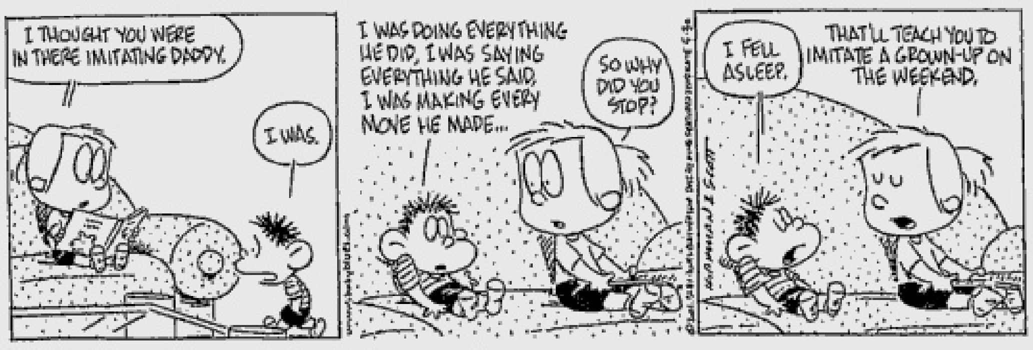
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN'S BEEN INJURED, AND WE NEED YOU AS OUR ALTERNATE FOR THE IRONFISH COMPETITION.
YOU WANT ME FOR AN ATHLETIC COMPETITION? OH MY.
WELL, LET'S SEE... I'LL HAVE TO STRETCH A LITTLE FIRST. I'LL NEED MY HEADBAND AND WRISTBANDS...
... AND MY LEG WARMERS, OF COURSE.
THIS IS NOT A RICHARD SIMMONS VIDEO!
5-30

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THERE IMITATING DADDY.
I WAS.
I WAS DOING EVERYTHING HE DID, I WAS SAYING EVERYTHING HE SAID, I WAS MAKING EVERY MOVE HE MADE...
SO WHY DID YOU STOP?
I FELL ASLEEP.
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO IMITATE A GROWN-UP ON THE WEEKEND.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wynonna Judd, Christine Jorgensen, Michael J. Pollard

Happy Birthday: Instability in employment may be unnerving but the end result will be beneficial, so relax and prepare to make a professional move if necessary. You will attract new partnerships through the company you keep and the organizations you join. You will do whatever it takes to make the kind of money you need .Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 27, 30, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to rethink your position and your future direction. If you have been working hard and just spinning your wheels it may be time to make a change. Don't be afraid to make a professional move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sudden trips will lead to greater social activity and new friendships. You will learn a great deal if you talk to people who have experienced something that interests you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An older relative may be inclined to give something away that belongs to you. Be cautious about going into financial deals. Losses are likely if you take a chance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may want to keep your thoughts to yourself today, or prepare yourself for undesirable changes if you insist on forcing issues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on getting along with your peers. Your leadership ability will enable you to set the pace for whatever project or challenge you decide to take on. Opportunities to make career moves will be present.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will learn so much from the people you associate with today. This is a time for personal change that is probably long overdue. It's up to you to start the process.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have to tread carefully when dealing with personal issues and those you care about. Deception will be prevalent today so ask questions if you are unsure of what someone is trying to tell you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can expect to receive information that will make your day. Your involvement in a group endeavor will lead to an influential friendship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your efforts into getting ahead. You can make a difference if you work alongside others and contribute your thoughts. Your involvement in health issues will help someone you care about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be ready to make a change. Do your research well or you may do something that you'll regret later on. Acting too quickly will only lead to disappointment.

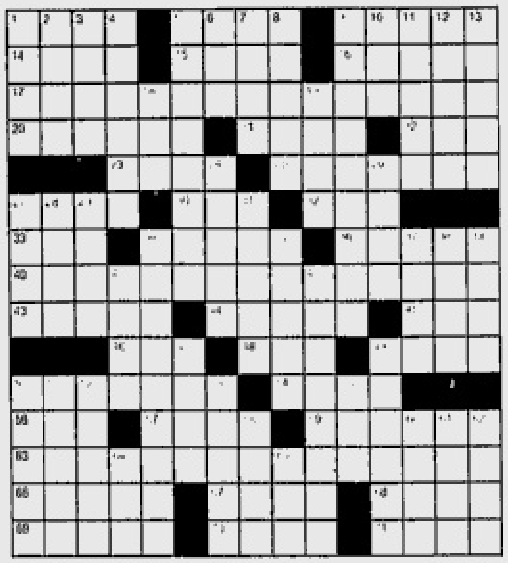
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your secretive nature will entice those you meet along the way. You will have some fabulous ideas about changes to your home and with your personal finances. Initiate something you've wanted to do for some time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be praised for your kind offers today. The more involved you get in volunteer work the more likely you are to meet someone who interests you.

Birthday Baby: You will prefer to work in a partnership rather than alone. You will appreciate comfort and luxury and strive to acquire this type of lifestyle. You will be able to balance your personal and professional life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

5/30/02

ACROSS

1 Sheltered harbor
5 After-bath powder
9 Bangs shut
14 Last word
15 Nearly round
16 Asia Minor region
17 Lock
20 Whole
21 Likewise
22 Society newcomer, briefly
23 Small amounts
25 Street crime
27 Abide by
30 Wee hour
32 Take to court
33 Mountaineer's challenge
34 Mindful
36 Trooper's gun?
40 Stock
43 Avow
44 Creditor's claims
45 Meadow
46 Easy dessert?
48 Make a blunder
49 Joie de vivre
50 That's out of the question!
54 Ticket info
56 Crete's highest peak
57 Nervous spasms
59 Pair
63 Barrel
66 Snap
67 Quaker State port
68 Set up for a drive
69 Point in question
70 Tear to bits
71 Nimble

DOWN

1 Sidewalk eatery
2 Muscat sultanate
3 British undershirt
4 Being
5 Soften
6 One of Frank's exes
7 Young guys
8 Pass without contact
9 Muttonchops
10 Lofting shot
11 Battery terminal
12 Distance runner
13 Cozied up to
18 Segment of history
19 Singer Tori
24 Slow-mover
26 Cop's route
27 Acorn droppers
28 Squandered
29 Fencer's sword
31 Cubs great Banks
34 Deep breath, say
35 Turn inside out
37 Child's toy
38 Field of study
39 Tatum's dad
41 Hemingway's sobriquet
42 Fortified
47 Perfect prose
49 Becomes violently active
50 Saintly emanations
51 Scents
52 Grottoes
53 Dark yellow
55 Dawn goddess
58 Regal address
60 Furtive glance
61 Lascivious gander
62 MacDonald's singing partner
64 __ de vie
65 Rummy call

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

G	I	L	T	■	S	E	T	T	O	■	H	A	F	T
I	D	E	A	■	E	R	R	O	R	■	O	N	L	Y
B	E	T	T	E	R	N	O	T	T	O	L	O	O	K
E	S	S	■	A	B	E	T	■	■	B	I	N	G	E
■	■	■	[illegible]	R	I	S	■	L	E	E	S	■	■	■
W	H	E	N	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	M	A	K	E
H	A	R	K	[illegible]	■	■	M	O	V	E	■	B	E	D
E	R	A	S	■	[illegible]	U	P	P	Y	■	[illegible]	I	N	G
A	S	S	■	[illegible]	A	P	E	■	■	S	U	E	D	E
T	H	E	I	R	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	S	O	R
■	■	■	[illegible]	I	E	N	■	C	I	N	F	■	■	■
I	S	T	L	E	■	■	D	E	N	G	■	S	T	Y
T	H	E	I	R	H	E	A	D	C	H	E	E	S	E
C	O	E	N	■	U	N	C	U	T	■	B	R	A	G
H	O	N	G	■	B	E	E	P	S	■	B	E	R	G

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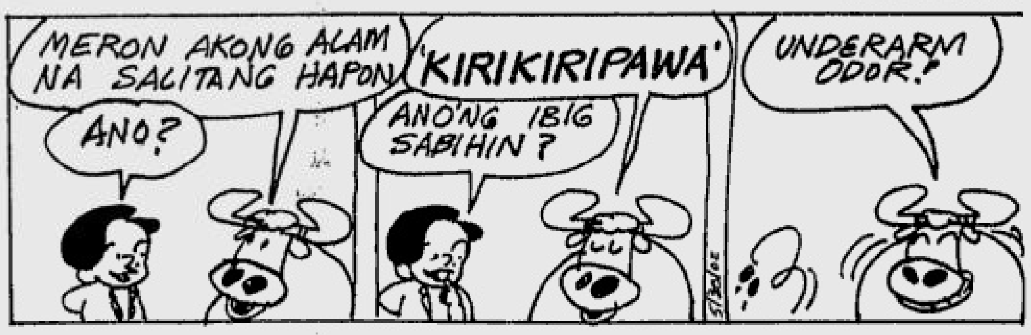
5/29/02

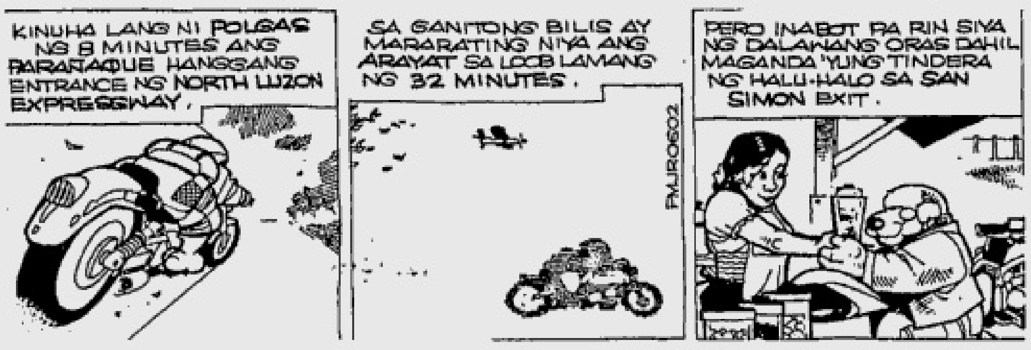
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MERON AKONG ALAM NA SALITANG HAPON
ANO?
'KIRIKIRIPAWA'
ANO'NG IBIG SABIHIN?
UNDERARM ODOR!

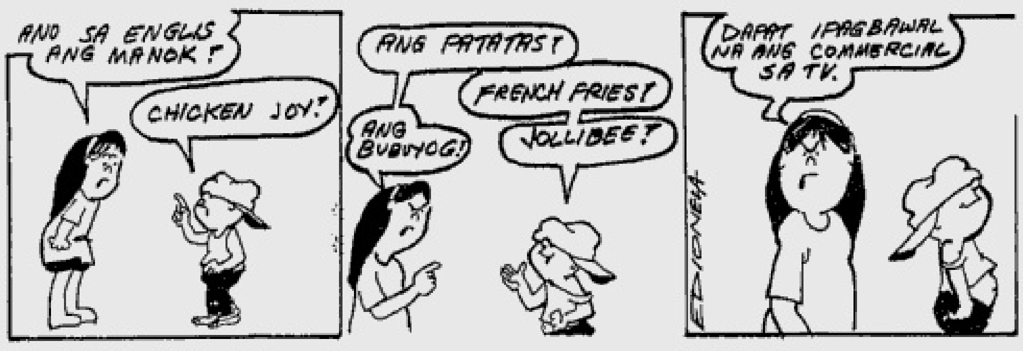
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KINUHA LANG NI POLGAS NG 8 MINUTES ANG PARAÑAQUE HANGGANG ENTRANCE NG NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY.
SA GANITONG BILIS AY MARARATING NIYA ANG ARAYAT SA LOOB LAMANG NG 32 MINUTES.
PMJR0602
PERO INABOT PA RIN SIYA NG DALAWANG ORAS DAHIL MAGANDA 'YUNG TINDERA NG HALU-HALO SA SAN SIMON EXIT.

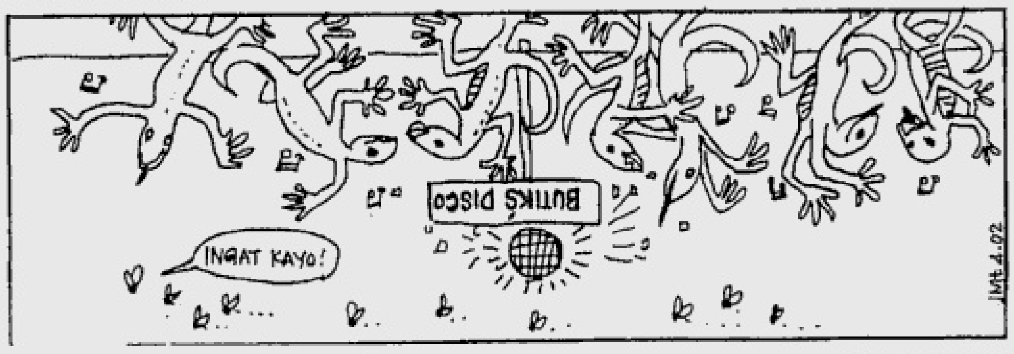
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANO SA ENGLIS ANG MANOK?
CHICKEN JOY?
ANG PATATAS?
FRENCH FRIES?
ANG BUBUYOG?
JOLLIBEE?
DAPAT IPAGBAWAL NA ANG COMMERCIAL SA TV.
EDIONELA

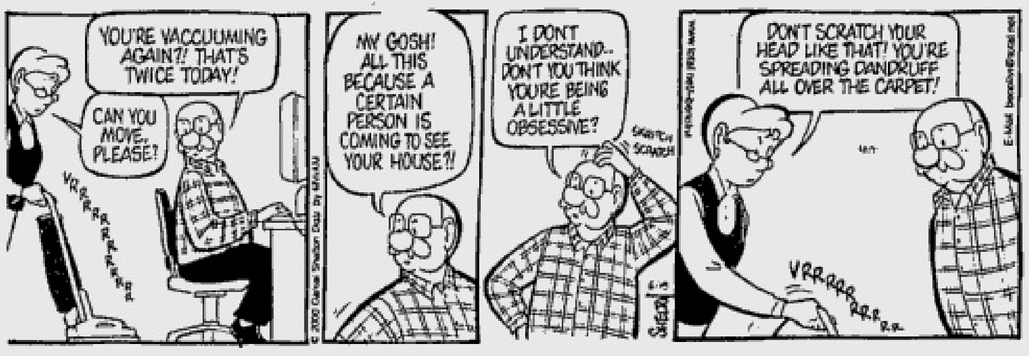
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUTIK'S DISCO
INGAT KAYO!
JMT 4.02

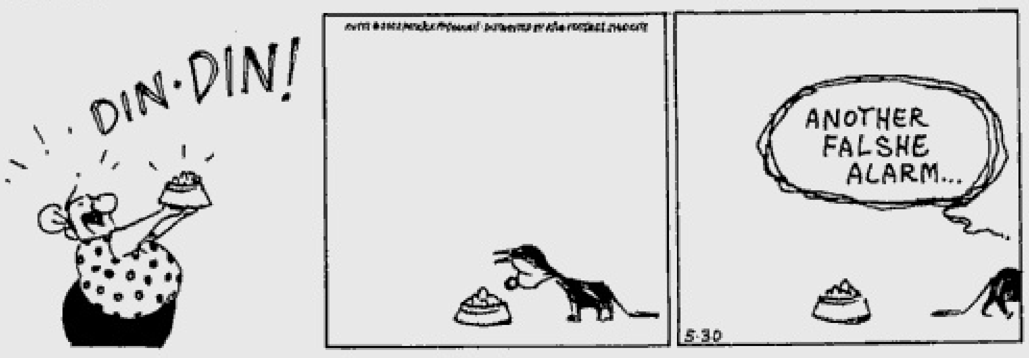
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE VACCUUMING AGAIN?! THAT'S TWICE TODAY!
CAN YOU MOVE, PLEASE?
VRRRRRRRRRRR
MY GOSH! ALL THIS BECAUSE A CERTAIN PERSON IS COMING TO SEE YOUR HOUSE?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE OBSESSIVE?
SKRITCH SCRATCH
DON'T SCRATCH YOUR HEAD LIKE THAT! YOU'RE SPREADING DANDRUFF ALL OVER THE CARPET!
VRRRRRRRRR

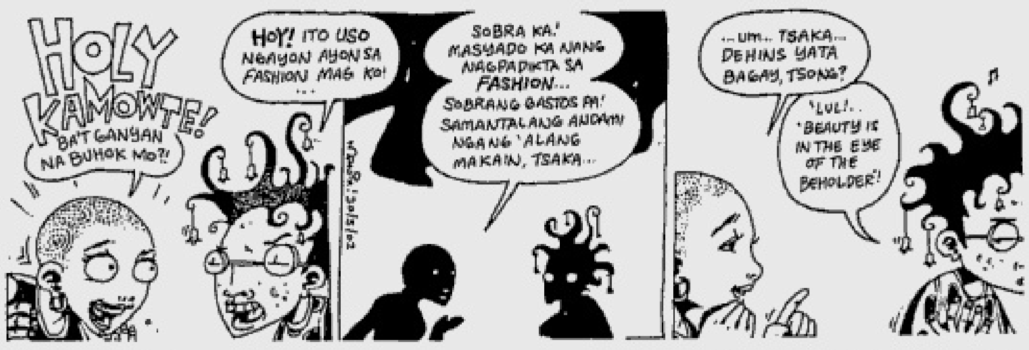
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DIN·DIN!
ANOTHER FALSHE ALARM...
5·30

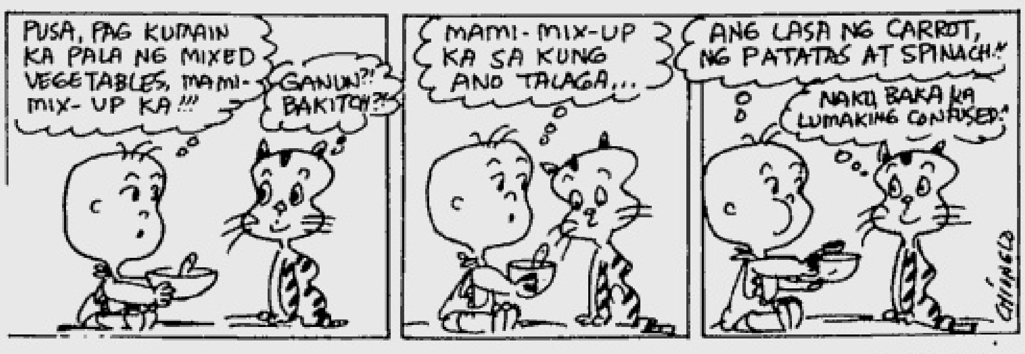
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HOLY KAMOWTE!
BA'T GANYAN NA BUHOK MO?!
HOY! ITO USO NGAYON AYON SA FASHION MAG KO! ...
SOBRA KA! MASYADO KA NANG NAGPADIKTA SA FASHION... SOBRANG GASTOS PA! SAMANTALANG ANDAMI NGANG 'ALANG MAKAIN, TSAKA...
...UM.. TSAKA... DEHINS YATA BAGAY, TSONG?
'LUL!.. 'BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER'!

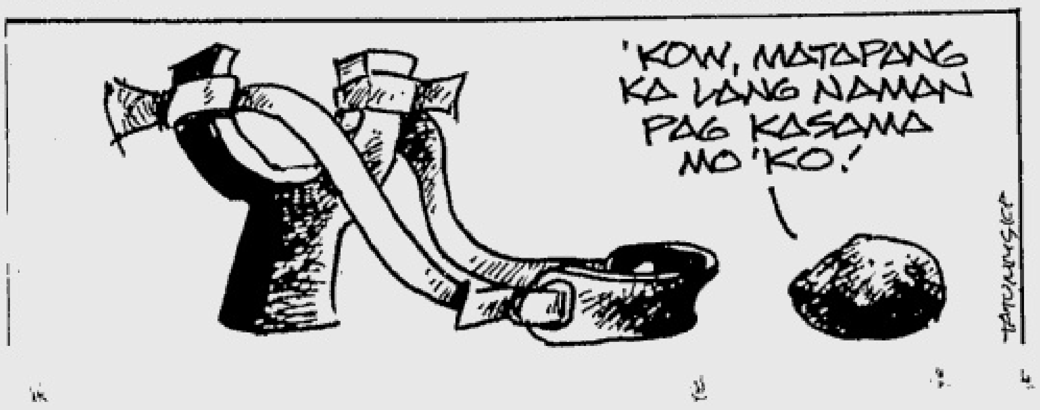
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, PAG KUMAIN KA PALA NG MIXED VEGETABLES, MAMI-MIX-UP KA!!!
GANUN?! BAKIT?!
MAMI-MIX-UP KA SA KUNG ANO TALAGA...
ANG LASA NG CARROT, NG PATATAS AT SPINACH!
NAKU, BAKA KA LUMAKING CONFUSED!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'KOW, MATAPANG KA LANG NAMAN PAG KASAMA MO 'KO!
TATUM

FROM LEFT, mocha shake, choco banana shake, banana shake, *dalandan* shake, ice tea cooler, green mango shake, ripe mango shake and Bailey's shake

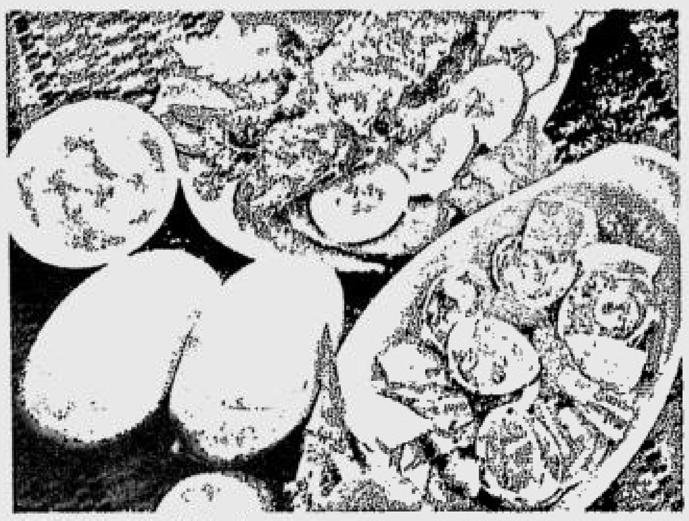
Mellow and smooth at lunch, upbeat and hip by evening

JUST a stone's throw from those two communications giants, Channels 2 and 7, Salo restaurant and bar serves a fusion of Asian cuisines at reasonable cost despite the ambiance of sophistication and elegance.

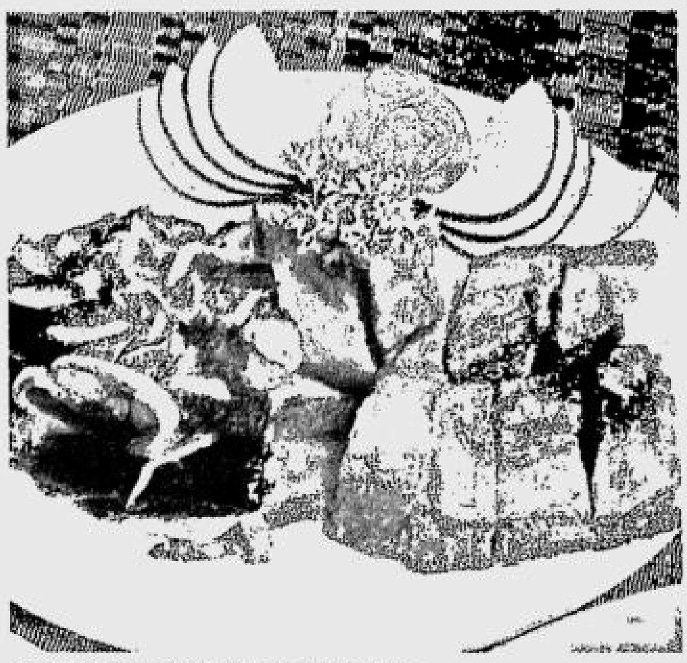
Salo is open from 11 a.m.-2 a.m., Mondays to Saturdays. Lunch and dinner are for families who just want to enjoy good food and the great ambiance that Salo provides.

Come late evening, the crowd shifts, and the place becomes a hangout for *barkadas* and people who want to enjoy a good drink. The music also shifts from mellow and smooth to fast, upbeat and hip as the crowd and the mood changes. "On Sundays, we want something special happening," said Boy Santiago of Salo, which is now open for lunch, and serves a Sunday "Family Dinner Buffet" priced at P230 plus a 50-percent off for kids 7 years and below. Sunday lunch is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the "Family Dinner Buffet" is from 6-10 p.m.

Salo Restobar accepts reservations for parties and Christmas party packages. Call 925-3295 or fax 809-0295.



CRISPY catfish flakes in green mango and spicy clams



LECHON *kawali* with *binagoongan talong*

SALO *tokwa't baboy*

FRIED beancurd nuggets with sauce

PIZZA! PIZZA!®
Little Caesars

DOBLENG PIZZA SA PRESYO NG ISA!

ARAW-ARAW, SARAP-SARAP

for only P160
2 Family Hawaiian Thin Crust

DELIVERY! DELIVERY! 898-7777

For comments and suggestions, email us at: pizzapizza@asiafood.com.ph

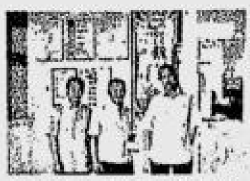
ICE CREAM Nestlé SCOOP A MILLION

Congratulations to the first batch of winners!

Abelardo John Fabian Pamintuan of GMA
Grand Prize Winner, Honda Civic VTi Manual

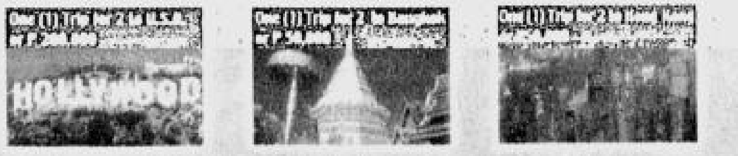
Fe Santander–Winner Sony Handycam
Diliman, QC.

Ligaya Briones–Winner P5,000
San Fernando, Pampanga



Camilo Villanueva–Winner P 10,000
La Union

Ten (10) ₱10,000
Fifty (50) ₱5,000
Ten Thousand (10,000) ₱100



Hurry!
Scoop a Million now.
Two ONE MILLION PESO chips are still up for grabs.
Promo ends June 30, 2002.

five (5) Portable DVD Players
five (5) Sony Handycams
five (5) Sony Flat-Vega 21
PLUS thousands of free Nestlé Ice Cream Pints

HOW TO JOIN:

1. This is an instant win promotion! You may win by finding a round plastic chip inside a 900mL, Half Gallon or Gallon of Nestlé Ice Cream Supreme, Classic or 1.5L Flavor of the Month. The chip will indicate the prize won.

2. When claiming a major prize follow the instructions written at the back panel of the winning plastic chip. Keep the winning chip. You need to present this to the Nestlé Philippines, Inc. – Ice Cream Division and DOH-BFAD representatives.

3. Only Genuine and Original chips shall be honored for redemption of prizes. Tampered, broken, deformed or mutilated chips will disqualify you or any other winner from claiming the indicated prize. Only Nestlé Philippines Inc. – Ice Cream Division executives together with DOH-BFAD representatives will verify the genuineness of the chip.

4. All prizes are tax paid. No fees are required to claim prizes.

5. Promo period is from March 1 to June 30, 2002.

6. Prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the last day of the promotional period (June 30, 2002) will be forfeited. Any winning chip claimed after August 31, 2002 will not be valid.

7. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. and its Agencies, Vassar Industries and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

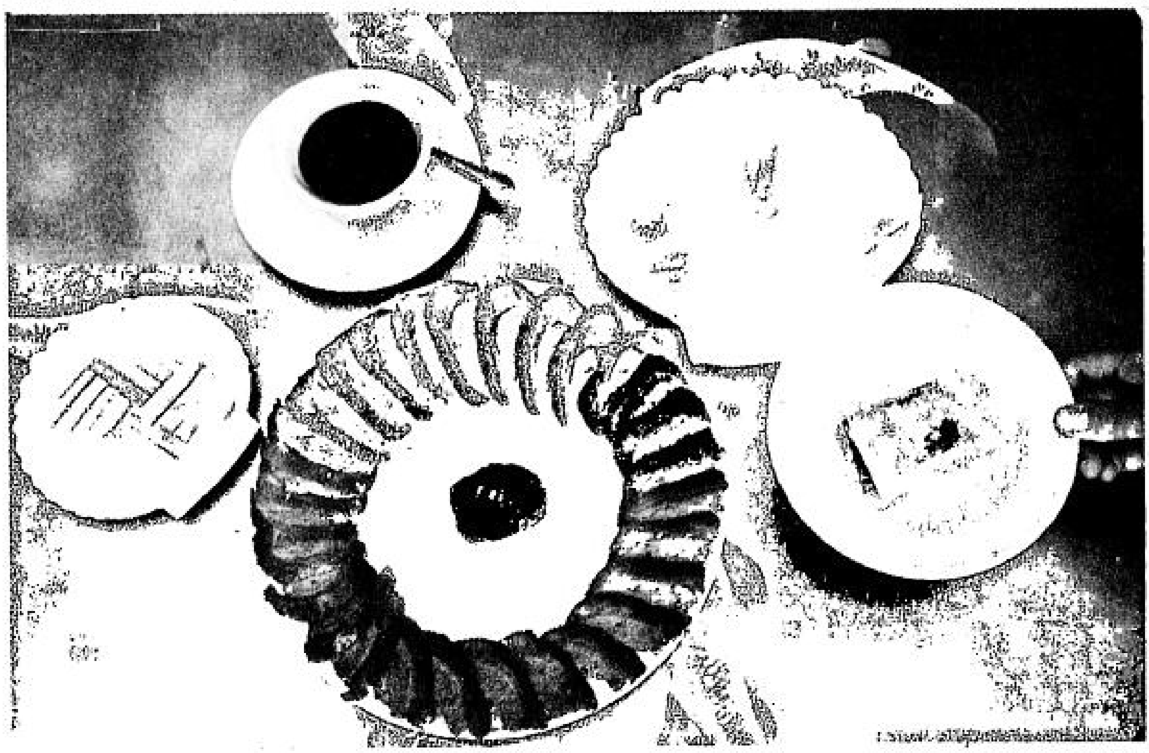
8. All major prizes are convertible to cash except for the five (5) Portable DVD players, five (5) Sony Handycams, five (5) Sony Flat - Vega 21 and Nestlé Ice Cream pints.

9. All travel prizes will cover only economy airfare expenses via airline to be chosen by Nestlé. US VISA is not guaranteed for winners of the US trip.

SCOOP THE LUCKY CHIP FROM ANY One Gallon, Half Gallon or 900mL of Nestlé Ice Cream or Flavor of the Month 1.5L

BONUS!
You can also join the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoop-A-Million Text Challenge and get a chance to win a Nokia 5510 weekly! Just text "NESTLE ICE CREAM" to 23302 (Globe) or 24302 (Smart/Talk 'n Text) and follow the easy directions! This promotion runs until June 30, 2002.

Powered by



A SPECIAL Chinese knife is used to peel off the skin of the Peking duck at Peking Garden.

FILIPINO favorites at Manila Galleria Suites

Something to quack about at Peking Garden

DINING OUT

THE SUCCULENT goodness of Peking duck can be enjoyed at Peking Garden with a generous 30-percent discount (for ala carte orders only) until June 10. Roasted in an open fire oven, Peking duck is presented to diners for inspection before the duck is peeled off by the attending server within minutes using a special Chinese knife. To taste the duck skin, one must add to the skin the special sauce which is prepared with sugar, soya beans and other Chinese condiments. Then place one or two pieces of cucumber and green onion as garnish and wrap with the pancake. An affiliate of Peking Garden Hongkong, the restaurant, known for its northern Chinese cuisine, is at the 2/L of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati. (tel. 817-9066 to -67).

SAIGON BEST, the world's leader in Vietnamese sandwiches, is now in the Philippines. After opening its first branch at 34-E Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City near Sulo Hotel, it will soon open branches in Eastwood Center, Glorietta, Rockwell Center and Robinson's Place. Saigon Best's cuisine is a blend of French, Portuguese, Thai, Laotian, Cambodian, Indian and Chinese. Vietnamese food is usually flavored with fish sauce, shrimp paste, lemon grass, mint, basil, cumin and chili peppers.

MARIO'S Kitchen offers regional specials like Lengua Estofado, Caldereta, Bistek, Chuletas de Cerdo (pork chop) and Salpicado all served with Paellitas, the restaurant's version of Paella Valenciana. Other dishes available at the restaurant include Lengua Estofado y Mejillones ala Pobre, Bistek Filipino y Calamares, Caldereta y Bangus Belly, and Callos y Pescado Rebozado. For light eaters, Mario's Kitchen has Potato Salad served plain, or with Smoked Salmon or Jamon Serrano. The restaurant has a bakery selling fresh breads, cakes and cookies. Mario's Kitchen is at the 2/L of Greenbelt Mall in Ayala Center, and at the 2/L of Robinsons Galleria Expansion Mall.

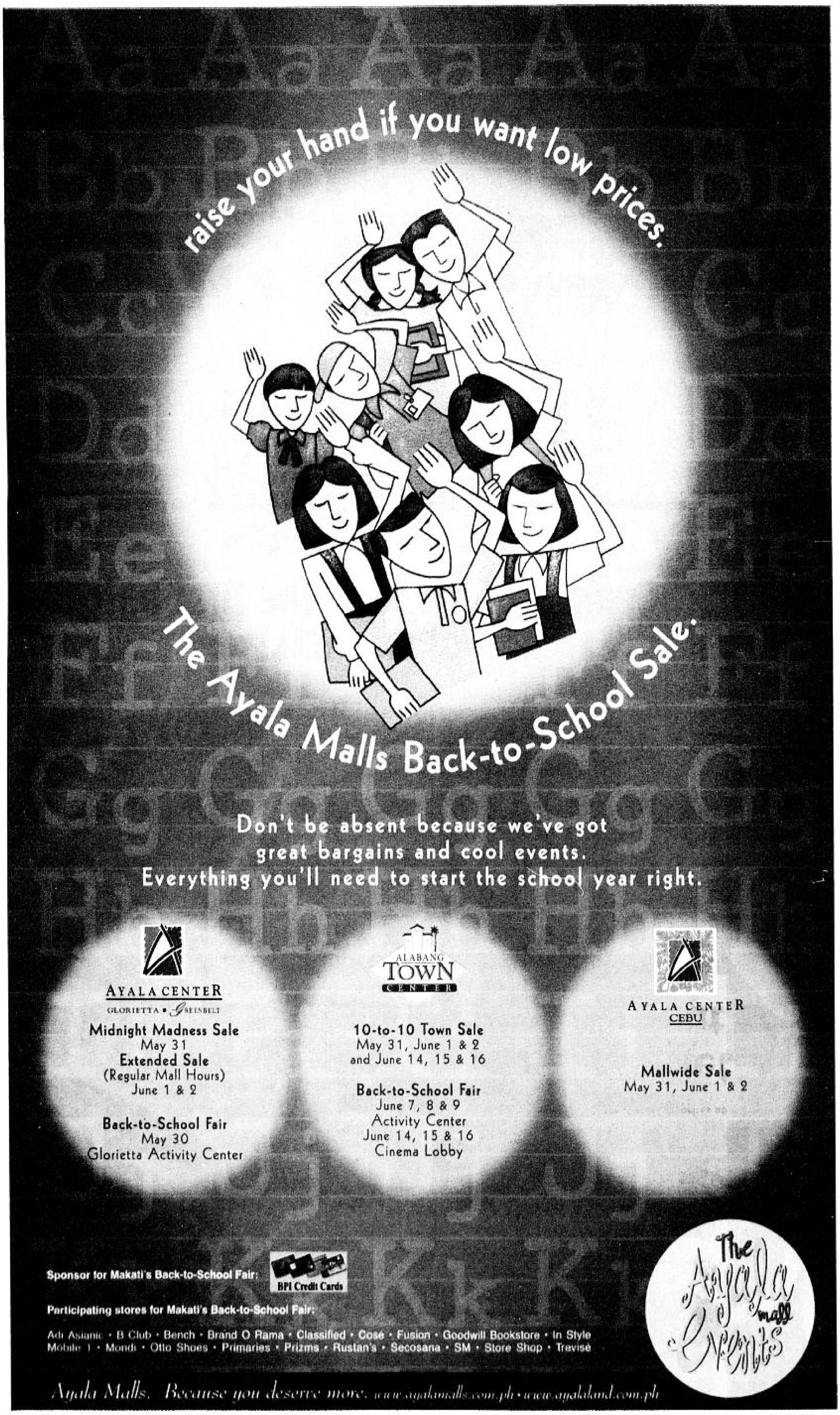
MANDARIN ORIENTAL offers 20 new dim sums for lunch and dinner at its Chinese restaurant, Tin Hau, until June 23. The selections include: pan-fried scallops and chives dumpling, steamed goldfish-shaped dumpling with parsley, deep-fried prawn and mango rolls in rice paper, steamed pork spareribs with garlic in black bean sauce, deep-fried taro nets served with seafood, steamed glutinous rice with peanut roll, chilled coconut pudding, and deep-fried mashed potatoes stuffed with custard cream. Call 750-8888 local 2422 and 2424.

THE SULO Hotel's Sushi Bar features new offerings: Sulo Maki, consisting of salmon, cucumber, crabstick and ebi tempura; Rainbow Maki, consisting of kanibo, tuna, egg omelet, lapu-lapu, salmon, mackerel, avocado and cucumber; Unagi Ninjin Maki, consisting of eel and carrots tempura maki mix; Fuji Tempura Maki, consisting of shrimps tempura and cucumber maki; Salmon Skin Maki (Tazuna), maki made from crispy salmon skin; and Oyster (Kake) with Punzo Sauce, fresh oysters with special sauce made of soya sauce, vinegar, sugar and fresh orange juice with a touch of garlic, radish and hot sauce. Try "Tempura Blast!" at the hotel's Teppanyaki Restaurant. Call 924-5051 to -71. The Sulo Hotel is on Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES' Raphael Café-Restaurant presents Fiesta Filipino, a buffet exclusively prepared by the hotel's renowned Chef Stefan Farkas. Featured in the buffet are Sinigang na Hito sa Bayabas, Pancit Molo or Pinapaitan #5, Menudo de Kabo, Camaron Rebosado, Kaldereta and Puchero, among others. Desserts include palitaw, kutsinta, puto, and halo-halo. The buffet is available until June 9. Call 633-7111 locals 7416 and 7440.

SOMETHING/ p.C4

DIM SUM delights at Mandarin Oriental until June 23



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May 31, June 1 & 2
and June 14, 15 & 16

Back-to-School Fair
June 7, 8 & 9
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June 14, 15 & 16
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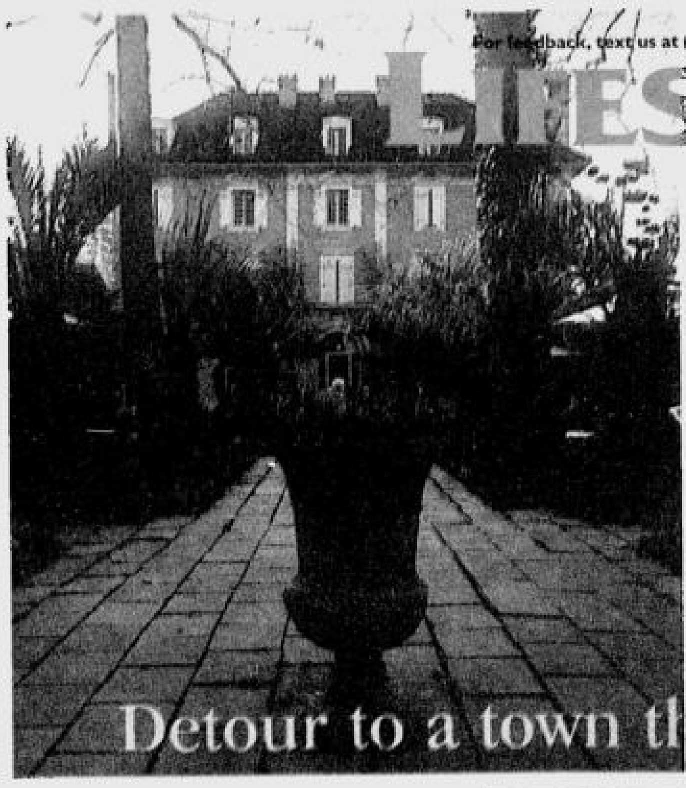

THIS way to Michel Guérard's realm of pleasures

THE WOODS from which they collect the most expensive water you'll ever bathe in.

Detour to a town that no longer exists

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

THE LITTLE town of Crillon-le-Brave would have been reached by turning off a narrow departmental road, onto a smaller one that winds its way up the mountains (the road signs included a red-bordered triangular one that simply said "!," which was not very helpful in terms of information about what lay ahead, but was a fairly accurate commentary on our state of mind when the road would swing abruptly around and upward, giving us a brief glimpse of a vertiginous precipice); then from this a tiny lane, barely wider than an aisle at the Price Club, would have led you to the ridiculously picturesque town.

I use the conditional tense for the simple reason that the town of Crillon-le-Brave does not exist any longer; at least, not as such. All that's left of it is the modestly named Hostellerie de Crillon-le-Brave, which is, in fact, a kind of manor house that has been rebuilt and added onto over the years, to the point where no one could tell us how old it was. But whoever had built it, and those who had continued his work, had evidently been work

DETOUR/ p.D2

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

RICE BOX MEALS & PAMBAON DISHES

Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center gives a new twist to that Filipino staple: rice. Whether you're a mother thinking of what baon to prepare for your kid or husband, or thinking of a viable food business, Maya Kitchen classes will literally be a wealth of moneymaking (as well as moneysaving) information. Enroll now.
Rice Box Meals: June 1 (Sat) 9 a.m - 1 p.m. Smoked Fish Bagoong Rice, Shrimp & Mushroom Gambas Adobo Rice, Burger Steak Parsley Rice, Grilled Salmon Belly Garlic Rice, Laing Rice & Spaghetti, Sweet & Sour Pork in Kasubha Rice. P750

OTHER ONE DAY SPECIALS
Pambaon Snacks: June 1 (Sat) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Roast Beef in Pita Pockets, Menudo Roll, Chic-a-bun Steak Chasseur Sandwich, Fillet of Fish, Fruity Chicken Sandwich including packaging ideas. P700
Pambaon Dishes (no preservatives): June 8 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Beef Tapa, Chicken Teriyaki, Pork Tocino, Corned Beef, Embutido, Skinless Longganisa. P750
Brownies To Go: June 8 (Sat) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Black Forest, Chocolate Raisins, Chocolate Chunks, Date nut, Rocky Road, Apple Chunks, Chocolate Almonds. P 700
Japanese Cooking: June 15 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi, Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800
7-day Curing Ham: June 15 (Sat) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Chicken Ham, Pata Hamon, Pork Ham. ***Bonus:*** Canadian Bacon & Pastrami. P700

CERTIFICATE COURSES FOR ADULTS (Pre-registration required)
Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: June 5 - 7 or June 19 - 21 (W - F) 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc. applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500
Baking I (Basic): June 5 -7 or June 19 - 21 (W - F) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000
Cooking I (Basic) For Messman, Stewards and Beginners: June 11, 13, 14 (T, Th, F) 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. OR June 25 - 28 (T - F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,200
Restaurant Operations: June 21 & 22 (F - S) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, and restaurant works, menu presentation of new popular restaurant, proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P2,000
Bakery & Bakeshop: June 22 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at the
8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City
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1) June 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2002 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING (BASIC) - P7,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making 20 kinds of long flowers, simple borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. ***Next schedule: July 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2002***

2) June 8, 2002 - NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND COOKIES - P2,500. Cooked Carrot Cake, Banana Cake, Peanut Butter, Coconut Cookies, Choco-Chip Cookies, Chocolate Nut, Hopia, Siopao. Ingredients included. ***Next schedule: July 6, 2002***

3) June 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2002/ 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING - P7,500. New method of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. **Next schedule: July 8 - 12, 2002**

4) June 15, 2002 - LEARN THE SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000. Banana, Apple Almond, Chocolate, Apple Walnut & Carrot Cakes, All-Wheat Breads & Raisin Breads. Ingredients included. ***Next schedule: July 13, 2002***

5) June 19, 2002 / 8am - 5pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, ROLLING PIN, SWAGS & RIBBONS - P3,000. Next schedule: July 17.

6) June 15, 17, 18 & 19, 2002 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P3,500 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling 2) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium 3). Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies.

7) June 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P9,500. 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies. Ingredients included. ***Next schedule: July 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2002.***

8) June 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2002 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4-Day Course - P10,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in new Cold Porcelain Recipe. ***Next schedule: July 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2002 - 4Days***

9) June 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2002 - SPECIAL BAKING - P10,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration. Ingredients included. ***Next schedule: July 22 - 26, 2002***

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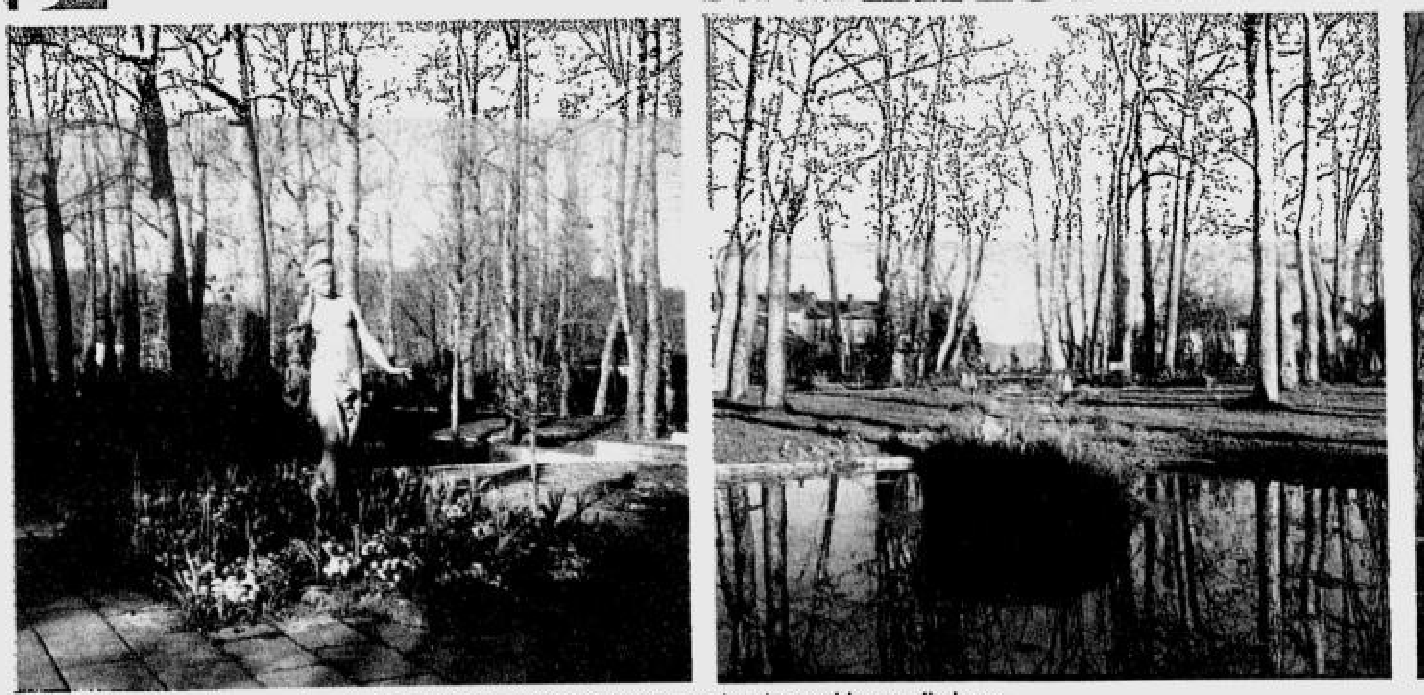


WALKING about these gardens is the only form of exercise you need to be at this so-called spa.

Detour to a town that no longer exists

> Its hallowed place in my memory has much to do with the peace I had achieved with God, with my parents and with the Provencal style of decoration

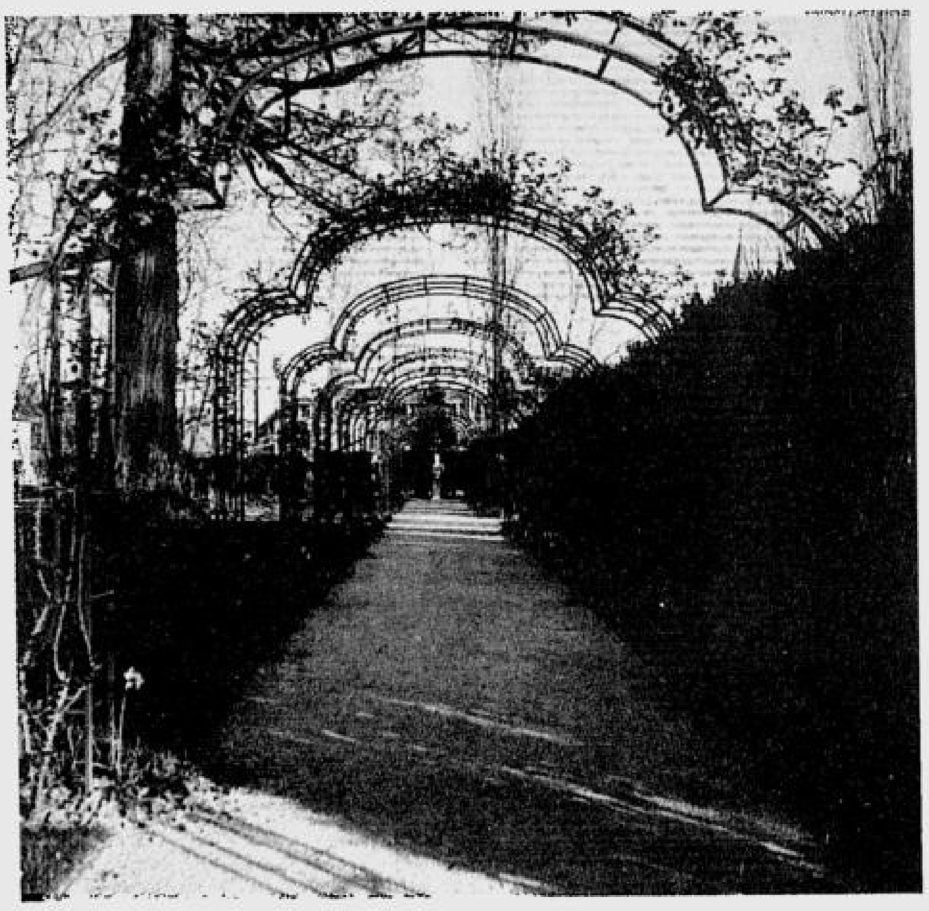
From page D1

ing (as my philosophy professor would put it) with a sense of eternity. It was with some difficulty that I opened the window to look out at the view: the stone walls were almost a meter thick. The woman who had shown us to the room advised me to keep the windows shut: "It's still the Mistral season," she explained. The Mistral is a Provençal wind that is said to originate in Siberia, gathering strength along its way, uprooting trees, flattening villages and sending an occasional flailing cosmonaut smashing against the window-panes.

Somewhat surreal

The supposedly rustic charm of the Provençal style of decoration is generally lost on me. For some reason, our flat in Paris had been decorated with the eccentric juxtaposition of Bauhaus with a Provençal flavor, so that the sleek curves of the furniture would be draped with spinsterly floral prints. This was somewhat surreal but could be ignored; what was more annoying was that all the chairs were the type with a high, straight back, with a seat made out of hemp rope that left vivid psychedelic welts on your bottom, and the only way to sit on these was bold upright, like someone about to be fried on an electric chair. (Equally inexplicably, there were about 10 of these in a 30 sq m flat; at the height of winter, when we were freezing and tripping over them, the temptation to throw them onto the fire was hard to resist.)

But in its element, the Provençal aesthetic didn't just make sense; it was impossible to conceive of how it could be otherwise. Luxury of the gilded sort had no place here: the strong lines of the oak wardrobe echoed the massive stone of the building; the rough surfaces and bare wooden boards were softened by the bright prints and the femininity of the florals. The towels and bed linen were thick and luxurious, but there was nothing in the nature of a mini bar or fax machine; there wasn't even a television set. There was a library, though, with the classics in beautiful leather bindings, some paperbacks in English, and an entire shelf of well-thumbed books in Provençal. The view was magnificent.



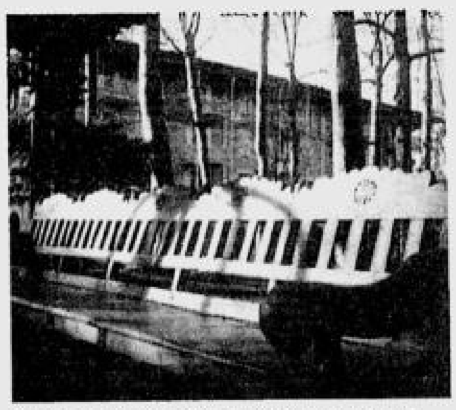
HAY fever central

PHOTOS: CLINTON PALANCA

I finished the roll of color slide film I had begun in Aix-en-Provence, snapping away haphazardly so that I could switch to black-and-white, which I thought would be more appropriate for the rough stone textures and the hard light; I subsequently screwed up the developing (a bottle of Sauternes might have had something to do with it), and so all I have are a few color prints that don't do the place justice.

Peace

In a sense it might be for the best. My rose-tinted memories of that night have much to do with the beauty of the place, but also because for the first time in many years, I walked into a church of my own accord and achieved what I wouldn't exactly describe as peace with God, but what the MILF would call a "cessation of hostilities." Also, since my college days my parents and I had kept up a polite but rather silly fiction about my nicotine habits, despite a proliferation of ashtrays in my apartment and clouds of smoke that billowed out when I emerged from the car; but their knowing and my telling them had taken seven years, a lot of courage and the solitude of a small hotel in the Pyrenées. The Hostellerie de Crillon-le-Brave is a place I would unhesitatingly recommend, but ultimately, its hallowed place in my memory has much to do with its being a metaphor for the peace I had achieved with God, with my parents and with the Provençal style of decoration.



A GOOD place to rest after a gruelling five-course meal.

Onward forth we wended in a westerly direction, making an unremarkable stop at an unremarkable hotel (not a Relais & Chateaux) in the unremarkable town of Albi, and then finally to Eugenie-les-Bains, where Michel Guerard held court. All that can really be said about Les Prés de Eugenie is that it's pretty, in the way that certain girls are pretty because they have well-cut clothes and look clean and well-scrubbed. The lawns and gardens were impeccably manicured, with hedges trimmed and ivy growing on trellises.

My judgment may have been clouded, I must admit, by the fact that these hedges consisted of flowering plants in full reproductive mode, and my hay fever went off the scale. So do bear in mind the fact that I was in an olfactory crisis when we went down for dinner, and was in a distinctly cranky mood. But the staff seemed to have a Parisian snootiness about them, a distance that was very much in contrast with the warmth of the previous establishments.

Three stars

As for the food, or what I could taste of it, I was unimpressed. Michel Guerard is one of the chefs whose names are mentioned with the same reverence accorded to Fredy Girardet, Joel Robuchon and Alain Senderens; only the last-named is still working, at the Lucas-Carton restaurant in Paris, and is worth each of his three stars, and almost worth the $200 a head it costs to eat there. Along with a few others, they were at the core of the revolution known as nouvelle cuisine: these days, it's the butt of those "Gee, I don't remember having eaten" jokes for its minimalist leanings; but at the time, it was a radical, important and necessary break with the classical butter-and-cream based French cuisine. In other words, Michel Guerard is a legend, and to yank him from three-star status would be as though, say, Nick Joaquin had entered the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards and won third place. We had a fine meal but it was not, as the Michelin guide would say, worth the detour.

Much of this column reads like a love letter to France; I assure you, though, that when I was there I was complaining about everything, from the mysterious proliferation of Provençal chairs in the apartment to the average Frenchman's evident reluctance to step under running water from time to time. "Now in Manila," I would begin, and my friends would roll their eyes wearily. But I've never failed to learn something from the trips I've taken there, if only because the French are so different from us that I've been forced to re-think many things I have taken for granted, or assumed were universal.

The hotels in the Relais & Chateaux chain are not great because they have impressive lobbies with towering flower arrangements, nor because they have Internet access even by the toilet, or concierges who can procure an elephant in under 20 minutes. Each country's top hotels are a distillation of what they believe the good life is all about: the Peninsula in Hong Kong has a television by the tub and a telephone in the shower; New York hotels are famous for their can-do concierges for whom anything is possible (except, perhaps, an English-speaking taxi driver); in London the food might be horrible but served on silver, and the staff, invisible until rung for, know their place and speak with clipped accents.

France has its monstrosities (the Ritz with its gold-plated spigots) and its roach-infested dives. But the ones we stayed in reflected one of the best traits of that country's culture. These are hotels that keep to the basics, but within what they do, there was no detail that wasn't carefully considered; at every turn there was taste and style and evidence of civilization. The French call it the art of living.

E-mail the author at clinton@info.com.ph

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JUNE SCHEDULE

June 2/ P750Fresh from your Home Oven II / Crusty Soft Pandesal, Rye Bread, Yummy Cheesy Bread, Carrot Loaf Bread June 3 / P850Old Fashion Delicious Cakes Ube Roll w/ Frosted Icing, Choco Roll w/ Frosted Icing, Mocha Roll w/ Mocha icing Brazo De Mercedes June 5 / P800 New Bars & Brownies/Pecan bars, Mango Bars Chewy Moist Brownies, Butterscotch Brownies.. June 7 / P750 Melt in the Mouth Pork Dishes/ Special Braised Porkloin w/Prunes, Melt in the Mouth Pork Belly, apricot Glazed Ribs June 9 / P900 Assorted Pastries/Cream Puff, Sylvannas, Pili Pastilles, Pulvoron, Special Macaroons, Choco Eclairs, Soft Chewy Crinkles June10 / P1000 Simple Delicious Cakes for Beginners-Hands-On/4 Simple basic different cakes & icings in easy procedures Chocolate cake w/frosted fudge, special Mocha cake w/ Kahlua icing, Chiffon cake w/boiled icing, Butter cake w/butter icing. June12 / P800 Quick Delicious Desserts (No Bake)/Italian tiramisu, Blueberry Cheesecake, Mango Icebox, Banana Cream Pie June14 / P750 Special Native Kakanin/Special Puto w/cheese, Baked Cassava cake, Ube Halaya, Maja Blanca June16 / P1800 Make Your Own Character Cake & Choco Lollipops/character cakes & choco lollipops great for children's party. June17 / P800 Fabulous Cookies/Peanut Butter Chunks, Macadamia Chunks, Double Choco Chips Cookies. June19/ The Best of Chicken Special/ Cheesy Crumbed Chicken, Chicken fillet w/garlic sauce, Chicken w/sherry Mushroom sauce, Chicken Ham w/pineapple sauce June21 / Special Pasta Galore!!/Special Lasagna, angel hair pasta in Basil Cream sauce, Chicken Putanesca, Vegetarian Pasta June23 / Ideal Recipes for all Occasions III/Chicken Alexander, Porkloin in Beer, Cheesy Baked Macaroni, Spinach Mushroom Crepe, Buko Pandan salad/June24 / P800 Special Salads!/Special Potato salad, Special Macaroni Salad, seafood Salad w/ Avocado Dressing June26 /P900 Special Cakes I/Black forest, Mango Tunnel cake, Chocolate Decadent, Coffee & Chocolate Roulade June28 / P750 Special Muffins/Apple Walnut, Banana Nut, Double Chocolate Chip Muffins June30 / P900 Special Appetizers/Calamares, Gambas, Baked Mussels, Chicken Buffalo Wings w/Bleu Cheese sauce, Salpicao, Nilasing na hipon./Recipes ideal for catering, restaurants, coffee and bake shops, special occasions Recipes include ingredients. For reservations visit/call us at #53 C. P. Tuazon Blvd. Cubao, Q.C/ Tel 722-46-13/Fax 410-52-15

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0314 Series of 2002

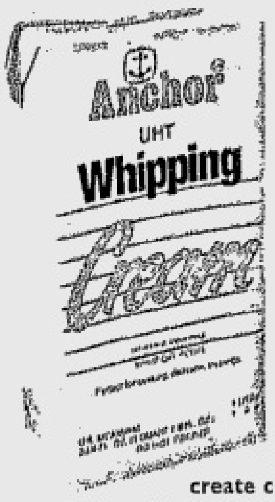
Keep fruits fresh longer

GLAD Wraps & Bags offers tips on how to keep fruits fresh and firm.

- Avoid overcrowding your fridge. Good fruits go bad because the cramming of too much produce in the refrigerator decreases the appliance's energy efficiency, prevents cool air from circulating properly and causes fruits to spoil early. Fruits like avocados, bananas, kiwi, mangoes, papayas, peaches, pears and tomatoes, emit ethylene gas when they ripen and mature so they should not be stored near ethylene-sensitive produce such as apples, asparagus, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, green lettuce, potatoes and watermelons. Ethylene-sensitive fruits and vegetables may lose their color, develop spots or become tough, bitter or soft when in close quarters with ethylene producers.
- Apples will stay fresh for three weeks when stored in Glad Zipper Storage Bags inside the fridge. The bags, which are great for keeping certain fruits fresh, have unique zipper locks that protect food from bacteria and seal in freshness. Do not rinse apples before storing. Wash each fruit individually before eating.
- Let mangoes and avocados ripen at room temperature. Store un-ripe fruits in the refrigerator without the use of bags. Ripe avocados will stay fresh for five days and mangoes for four days.
- Ripe oranges will stay fresh for two weeks if stored inside the fridge without the use of bags. Outdoors, orange wedges will stay fresh overnight when kept in a sealed plastic bag like Glad Zipper Storage bag.
- Unpeeled pineapple can be stored at room temperature for a few days. Once the pineapple is peeled and cut into pieces, it should be stored in an airtight container inside the fridge. Ripe pineapples will remain fresh for five days.
- Strawberries should be washed only before eating them. They are best kept inside the fridge in sealed food storage bags like Glad Zipper Storage Bags. Ripe strawberries will stay fresh for about four days.
- Tomatoes can be left to ripen at room temperature and away from sunlight. When ripe, they can be put in Glad Zipper Storage Bags and kept in the refrigerator where they will stay fresh for one week.
- Bananas should be kept at room temperature without the use of bags. Ripe bananas will stay fresh for five days.
- Grapes should be washed only before eating. They should be put in sealed plastic bag like Glad Zipper Storage Bag and kept inside the refrigerator. Ripe grapes will remain fresh for one week.
- Melons can be ripened at room temperature. Ripe melon can be stored in the fridge without the need for a bag and it will stay fresh for one week. When cut into pieces, the melon should be covered fruit using Glad Cling Wrap before storing in the refrigerator.

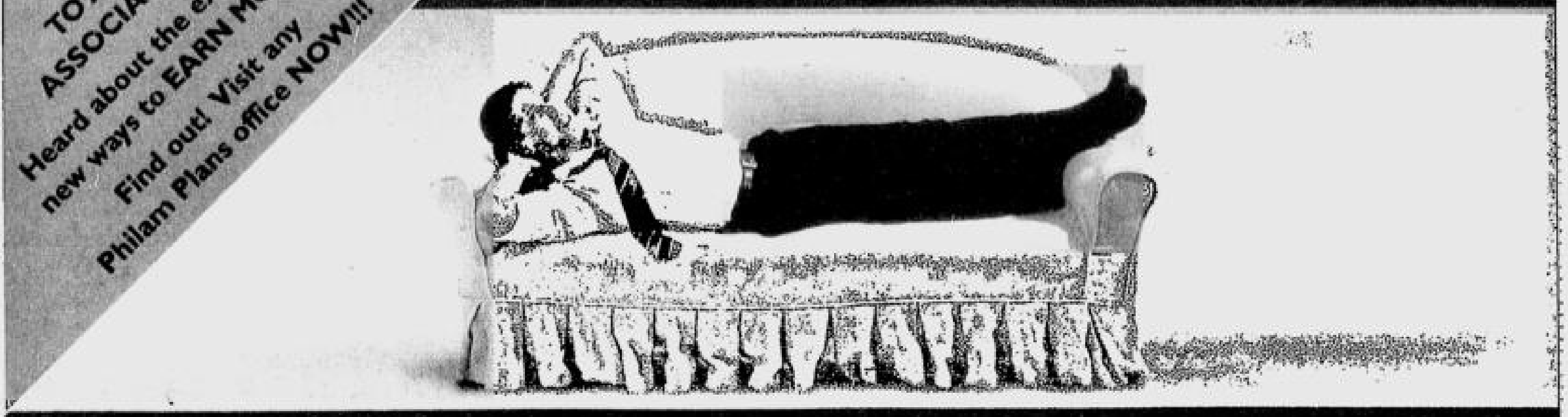
CREAMY DELIGHT

New Zealand Milk, makers of high quality, pure and fresh dairy products such as Anchor Milk, introduces Anchor Whipping Cream, an all-purpose, premium quality whipping cream. Like other dairy products of New Zealand Milk, Anchor Whipping Cream has a rich and creamy flavor and thick texture ideal for cooking and more. Make your favorite pastries and beverages, like cappuccino and shakes, extra delightful by topping them with Anchor Whipping Cream. Use the new Anchor product to create creamy and flavorful sauces for your pasta and other dishes. Anchor Whipping Cream comes in convenient one liter tetra packs and is now available in leading supermarkets.



TO ALL ASSOCIATES: Heard about the exciting new ways to EARN MORE? Find out! Visit any Philam Plans office NOW!!!

An Education Plan for



Singles,

Doubles,

and even Triples.

PHILAM PLANS GOLD EDUCATION PLAN

You don't need to have children to purchase an educational plan. No matter what age you are in right now, Philam Plans' Gold Education Plan is sure to fit your needs. If you're single or newly married, secure your future child's education early. If you're an uncle or an aunt, assign the plan to a favorite niece or nephew. And if you're a grandparent, give the plan as a gift to your grandchild.

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one with the filipino family

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Ask about Philam Plans Gold Education Plan.
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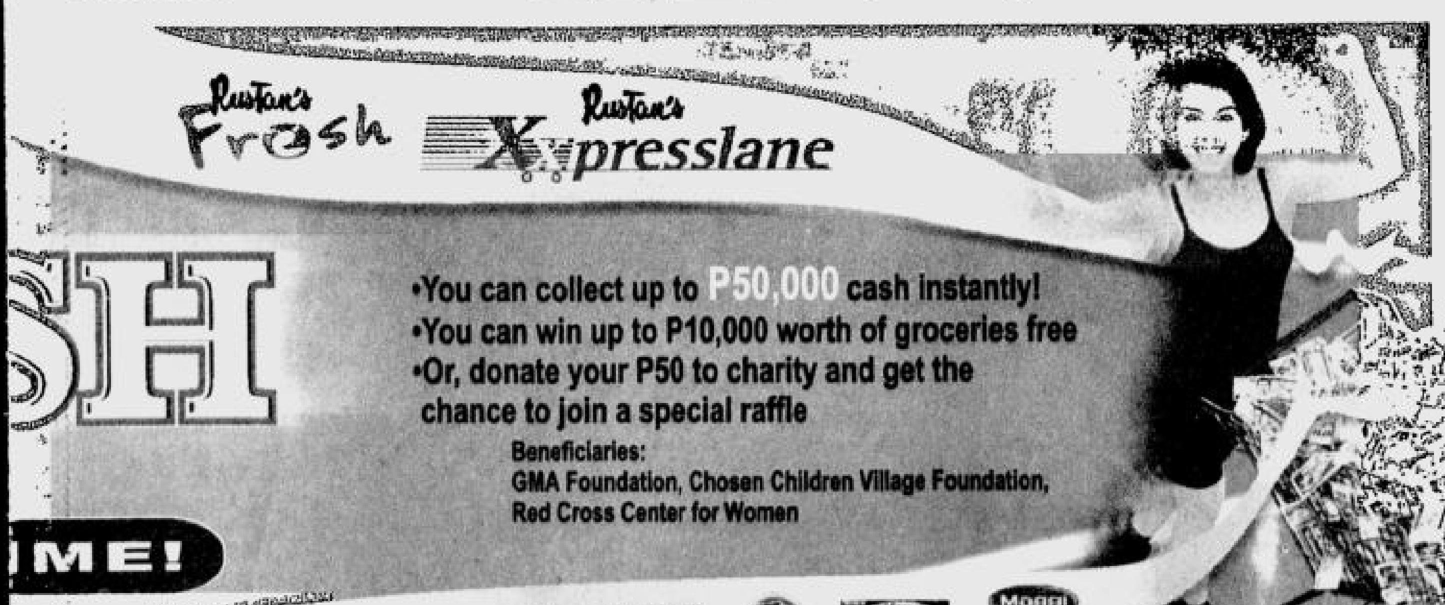
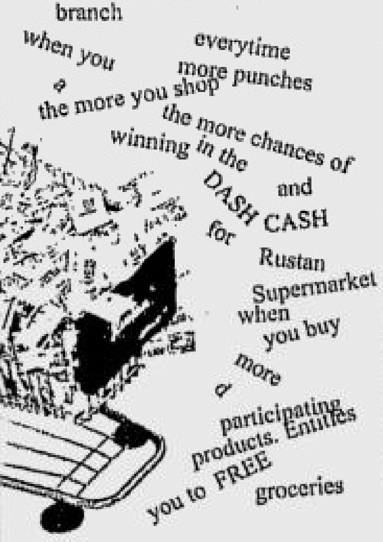


•You can collect up to P50,000 cash instantly!
•You can win up to P10,000 worth of groceries free
•Or, donate your P50 to charity and get the chance to join a special raffle

Beneficiaries:
GMA Foundation, Chosen Children Village Foundation, Red Cross Center for Women

PROMO DURATION: MARCH 18-JUNE 30, 2002

MECHANICS:
• Get your FREE DASH for CASH cards everytime you shop at any Rustan Supermarket or XxpressLane branch



• Your number of punches will depend on your total purchase. The more you shop, the more punches you get.
• You also get **BONUS** punches when you buy participating products with special **"BONUS"** stickers.
• **"WILD CARDS"** entitle you to FREE groceries worth up to P10,000.00.
• Or, you can donate your P50.00 prize to charity and get the chance to win in a special raffle.

Prizes include:
3 TAMASHI colored TV's; 5 Electronic Keyboards; 10 Boomboxes; 10 Princess Coffeemakers; 5 Php 1,000.00 worth of gift cheques from Rustan Supermarkets.

SEE POSTER FOR DETAILS

Back to kitchen school with Reggie

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts at Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, announces its classes for June. The schedule is as follows:

June 1: Kare-Kare—Traditional, Salmon Head, Belly and Mixed Vegetable with Shallot Jelly, Seafood, Lamb Shank with Mint Bagoong, Kare-Kare Paella, Flavored Bagoongs and Relishes.

June 3: My Excellent Pies—White Chocolate Banana Cream Pie, Mango Condensed Milk Custard, Chocolate Butterscotch, Sour Cream Lemon Meringue, Honeynut Crunch Pie, To Die for Boston Cream Pie.

June 12: The Art of Making Delicious Pancit—Pancit Canton with Scallops, Pancit Bihon Guisado with Chinese Asado and Roasted Duck, Pancit Mami in Lechon Manok Broth, Lang-Lang with Fresh Spring Vegetables, Gourmet Style Pancit Hab-Hab.

June 14: Ox-tail Stews from Around the World—Greek Style with Feta, Chinese Style, Burgundy, Beef, Pork and Lamb Stew, Moroccan Spiced Beef, Japanese, Mixed Greens and Bacon Salad with Warm Vinaigrette.

June 15: Gourmet Style Chinese—Hot Prawn and Chicken Salad, Sweet and Sour Pork, King Dao Spare Ribs, Tenderloin Steak Chinese Style, Broccoli with Garlic, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Almond Jelly Taho.

June 17: Simply the Loaves—Banana Corn Bread, Creamy Rye, Apple Butter Bread, Honey Walnut Bread, Creamy White Loaf, Russian Style Black Bread, Classic Honey Bread.

June 19: Gravlax—(Sweet Cured Salmon) Learn the art of curing salmon and making delicious bagels and relishes. A real must for all sophisticated palettes. New and exciting class recipes include: Traditional Gravlax, Asian Style Gravlax, Tequila-cured, Honey-cured, Sugar-cured. Relishes: Vegetable, Apple Mint, Sweet Potato. Salads: Grapefruit. Bread: Homemade Bagels.

June 21: Trendy Salads—Grilled Honey and Citrus Chicken Salad Sandwich, Salad of Mixed Melons and Goat Cheese, Fried Oyster and Shrimp Caesar, Foie Gras and Confit Du Canard Salad with Fresh Vegetables and Fruit Compote, Crispy Shrimp and Shiitake Salad, Goat Cheese Soufflé with Caramelized Apple and Walnut Salad, Warm Seafood Salad.

June 22: "Repeat" Korean 101—Kaibi-Chim (Korean Beef Rib Stew), Korean Barbecue (pork, beef, chicken, seafood), Kimchi Rice, Chap-Chae (Stir-Fried Noodles Korean Style), Mixed Vegetables.

June 24: Popcorn Like Never Before—Almond Toffee, The Best Ever Caramel, Bacon-Cheese, Basil and Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Cheddar-Chive, Chocolate Fudge, Chocolate Cream, Cinnamon-Apple, Mocha Almond, Peanut Butter, Honey Crunch, Yogurt.

June 25: All New Pates and Terrines—Duck Liver Truffles, Pate of Chicken Livers with Mushrooms, Duck and Chicken Liver Mousse with Truffles, Roasted Vegetable and Chevre Terrine with Sun-Dried Tomato, Mixed Meat Wild Mushroom Pate, Roquefort Terrine, Sardine Terrine, Fruit and Vegetable Marmalades, Compotes and Relishes, Croustons, Crostinis and Mixed Green Salads.

June 28: More of My Favorite Cheesecakes—Caramel Apple Cheesecake, Ricotta-Sour Cream Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce, Flan Cheesecake, Orgasmic Mango Cream Cheesecake, Lemon Curd Cheesecake, Old World Classic Cheesecake with Condensed Milk and Nut Praline Sauce.

June 29: Vietnamese 101—Crab and Asparagus Soup, Vietnamese Spring Rolls (fried and fresh), Vietnamese Stir-Fried Crabs, Vietnamese Style Mixed Barbecue (beef, chicken, lamb, seafood and dipping sauces), Vietnamese Fried Rice.

Cooking classes for kids begin Saturday

CHILDREN who want to learn to cook can sign up for Vicky Veloso-Barrera's Tiny Kitchen classes in June.

Tiny Kitchen 1 for 5 to 7-year-olds starts 9-11 a.m. June 1, and will be held on the same time for five consecutive Saturdays. Children will be taught during each session one main dish and one dessert from Veloso-Barrera's collection of kid-tested recipes. Cost of the course, inclusive of all ingredients, is P2,000. Children can bring home what they cook.

Also beginning on June 1 is Tiny Kitchen 2 class for kids aged 8 and above. The class will meet 2-4 p.m. for five consecutive Saturdays. A main dish, side dish, drink and dessert will be taught in each session. Cost of the course including all ingredients is P2,500.

All classes will be held at Veloso-Barrera's residence at 520 Protacio Street, Pasay City. Call 843-1303, 844-7917 or 0917-618-4612.

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Recommended water
(4 liters for a 40kg bag)
just add water
10kg. NET
MIX & FIX
Pre-mixed Mortar
PAG-KONKRETO, KAILANGAN MO MUNANG
TANTIYAHIN KUNG GAANO KA
O AT BUHANGIN ANG GAGA
IG BUMILI NG SE
SIMPLE. SAKTO. SIGURADO.
TAPOS
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MIX & FIX
Pre-mixed Concrete & Pre-Mixed Mortar
Ang instant pambuhos at pampalitada

UNION CEMENT CORPORATION's

MIX & FIX Pre-Mixed Concrete and Pre-Mixed Mortar

Pioneering Convenience in Construction

Union Cement Corporation, a largely Filipino-owned company, is launching pre-mixed mortar and concrete products in the Philippines to make construction and repairs less arduous and messy. The first-of-its-kind in the country, this product — appropriately called ***Mix & Fix***, provides concreting solutions for home repairs and for general construction projects.

In the highly competitive global market, convenience is a product buzzword that best describes the overriding quality that consumers look for. People now not only look for goods that are reasonably priced; they also demand that these must make doing chores simpler, better - with less hassles and worries.

Convenience means less effort, less error and faster work output. It also guarantees excellent results. It can be summarized in three words: ***Simple. Sakto. Sigurado.***

SIMPLE

Are you thinking of cementing cracks in the garage? Or improving the drainage of the house? Or you might be planning to construct a small grotto or even a pond? Or you simply want to add an extension to your house for an extra room for your growing family?

Mix & Fix Pre-Mixed Concrete can do all these for you — conveniently. All you have to do is add water according to the amount indicated on the packaging and... voila! A concrete mixture guaranteed to last! Why? Because Union Cement has done the mixing for you. All you have to do is add water.

Mixing concrete the old fashioned way means you have to buy the cement, the sand, and the gravel separately, estimate how much of each should go in the mixture, add the water, mix, add a little of each component depending on the consistency of the mixture, and hope for the best. For one who is a novice in mixing concrete, the process can prove to be frustrating, not to mention perplexing, tiring, and messy. One is also left wondering if the structure (or repairs) he made will last.

Mix & Fix has taken the guesswork out of mixing concrete! By following the simple instructions on the package, one is assured that the structures or repairs made will stand the test of time.

Turn to E3

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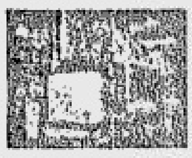

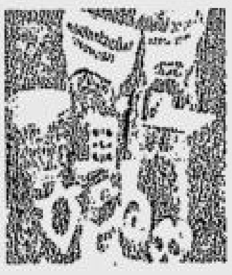

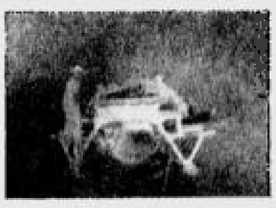

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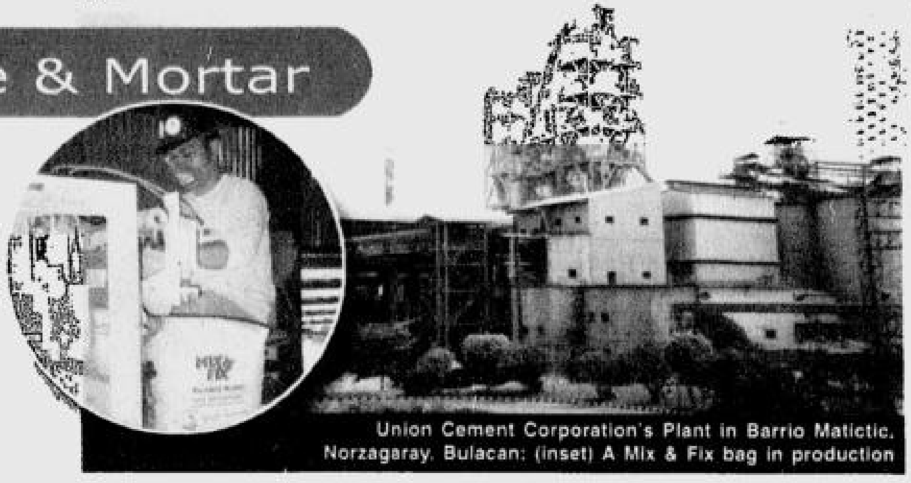
MIX & FIX THE ORIGIN

Pre-mixed Concrete & Mortar

PLANT INAUGURATION



Union Cement Corporation's Plant in Barrio Matictic, Norzagaray, Bulacan; (inset) A Mix & Fix bag in production

UCC's newest addition to its roster of products, the ***Mix & Fix*** Pre-mixed Mortar and Concrete, inaugurated its plant in Norzagaray, Bulacan last May 22. The event was highlighted by the introduction of the ***Mix & Fix*** team by Dr. Francis Felizardo, UCC Head of Sales and Marketing. Welcome remarks were given by UCC Bulacan Sr. Vice President and Plant Manager Moises Guinares, who reaffirmed the company's commitment to environmental protection and cleanliness.

Dr. Magdaleno Albarracin, Jr., UCC's dynamic President and Chief Operating Officer, issued the greatest challenge when he made known his intention of making Mix & Fix a byword in consumer products by making it a fixture in supermarkets, home depots and do-it-yourself stores, easily available to all segments of the market (especially housewives). The indefatigable team headed by Ms. Maribel Sumaria put the whole event together.

BAGO KA MAKAPAG-KONKRETO, KAILANGAN MO MUNANG SUKATIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN KUNG GAANO KARAMING SEMENTO AT BATO AT BUHANGIN ANG GAGAMITIN MO TAPOS KAILANGAN MONG BUMILI NG SEMENTO TAPOS BUMILI NG BATO TAPOS BUMILI NG BUHANGIN TAPOS BISTAYIN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG SEMENTO TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG BATO TAPOS HALUIN ANG SEMENTO AT BATO AT BUHANGIN TAPOS LAGYAN NG TUBIG ANG PINAGHALONG BUHANGIN AT SEMENTO TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG TUBIG TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG SEMENTO TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG TUBIG TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG BUHANGIN TAPOS HALUIN...

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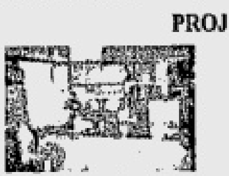

Finish Mill Lubrication System
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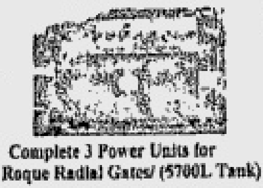
Power Unit Supplied
@ Alsons Cement



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Hydraulic Cylinder Repair
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UCC's President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Magdaleno Albarracin, Jr. & UCC Bulacan's Sr. Vice President & Plant Manager Moises Guinares cutting the ceremonial ribbon

Pioneering Convenience in Construction...*from E1*

SAKTO

No matter how ambitious the project, there's a ***Mix & Fix*** bag to suit your construction needs. ***Mix & Fix*** is available in three package sizes: 10 kg. bag, 20 kg. bag, and 40 kg. bag. This ensures that the user only needs to buy the exact amount he needs. Retailers of sand or gravel (aggregates) usually refuse to sell these in any amount smaller than a sack. This means, when doing minor repairs, you will have to mix more than what you need, leaving you with leftovers...waste! Wastage, which contractors often compute at 10% of expenses, makes simple concreting jobs more expensive than they should be. Now, you don't have to spend for something you didn't use because with ***Mix & Fix*** mortar and concrete, nothing is wasted.

Because of the technology acquired through the merger with HOLCIM, Ltd. and applied in UCC's ***Mix & Fix*** plants, quality of the finished product is guaranteed. This makes the days of guesswork a thing of the past.

With ***Mix & Fix,*** you get what you want exactly the way you want it.

SIGURADO

There are two ***Mix & Fix*** products meant to meet the different types of cementing jobs. The ***Mix & Fix*** concrete combines cement, sand and gravel (aggregates) and is used in all phases of construction. The ***Mix & Fix*** mortar, on the other hand, combines cement and sand to achieve a smooth finish on wall surfaces.

Union Cement Corporation manufactures 2 types of cement: the ordinary **Portland cement**, which is used for general construction, and the **Union 4X**, a superior strength cement which cannot be bought in bags but is made in bulk in the company's batching plants, and is used specifically for high rise buildings. ***Mix & Fix*** products are made with the superior Union 4X cement. ***Mix & Fix*** concrete has a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi at 28 days, which is roughly the concrete strength of a cement road. Because the company is **ISO Certified,** strict ASTM standards are followed in the manufacture of ***Mix & Fix*** products. ***Mix & Fix*** is **ASTM C387 compliant**, the standard for packaged dry mortar and concrete. •

OR, JUST MIX & FIX.
TAPOS.

40kg. NET
MIX & FIX
Pre-mixed Concrete
10kg. NET
MIX & FIX
Pre-mixed Mortar

Ngayon, instant na ang konkretong pambuhos at pampalitada!

just add water

- Just add water
- Tipid ka sa oras, gastos at pagod
- Tama ang sukat, tama ang timpla
- Quality assured dahil gawang Union Cement Corporation
- Siguradong success ang trabaho

Sa pagkokonkreto at pagpapalitada, wala nang mas dadali pa sa Mix & Fix!

MIX & FIX
Pre-mixed Concrete & Pre-mixed Mortar
SIMPLE. SAKTO. SIGURADO.

UNION CEMENT CORPORATION
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MIX & FIX Pre-mixed Concrete & Mortar

FORMAL LAUNCH

(from L-R) Dr. Francis Felizardo, Rey Santos, Roy Alfafara, Marlon Medida, Art Milan, Maribel Sumaria, and Pilar Benitez offering a toast for the success of Mix & Fix

Mix & Fix was formally launched in a highly successful affair with cocktails held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati last May 24. On hand to welcome this much anticipated product were dealers and retailers from the Luzon area, guests from the government sector, owners and managers of leading do-it-yourself stores and top contractors and representatives of different groups from the construction industry. Dr. Francis Felizardo, Head of Sales and Marketing offered a brief background as to the origins of ***Mix & Fix*** and the idea that lead to its development while Mr. Ricky Bautista, head honcho of ***Mix & Fix*** presented the advantages, consumer benefits and applications in using the products.

The focal point of the event was a makeshift wall crumbling on-stage to reveal the ***Mix & Fix*** Pre-mixed Mortar and Concrete, indicating that the traditional way of mixing concrete will be demolished with the advent of ***Mix & Fix***, the pioneer in concreting solutions. This was given an introduction by UCC's Sr. Executive Vice President Dr. Francisco Viray. The top Marketing officers of Union Cement Corp. were then called on-stage to offer a toast for the success of ***Mix & Fix.*** A raffle was also held wherein several dealers from different parts of Luzon won trip packages for 2 to Boracay, Bohol and Davao. The grand prize winner was awarded a trip for two to Bangkok, Thailand. UCC family and guests spent the rest of the evening dancing the night away. The event was hosted by prominent TV and movie personalities, Hans Montenegro and Maureen Larrazabal. It was indeed a stunning affair to mark the entry of a revolutionary product in the construction industry. •

The UCC Marketing Team

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ROBERT D. RODRIGUEZ
Distribution Unit Head, Bulacan Plant

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